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COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

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PRIZE STORIES.

The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being clearly set forth, it will be useless for anyone to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

1. Only persons who are regular paid up yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least two yearly subscribers (together with 50 cents to pay for each subscriber so sent) may compete for the prizes.

2. All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with nom de plume if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in the same envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB care of COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. All stories must be strictly original with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace; of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than 2,000 or less than 1,000 words.

4. No MANUSCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND COMPETITORS SHOULD THEREFORE RETAIN A COPY OF WHAT THEY SEND.

5. From \$5 to \$20 will be paid for stories, and remittances will be sent by check as soon as awards have been made. No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Short Story Prize Offer.

The Publishers of "Comfort" reserve the right to purchase at their established rates any stories submitted under the foregoing offer, which failed to secure a prize.

Writers who hear nothing of their manuscript may, at the end of 90 days after submitting them to "Comfort" feel at liberty to offer their stories for sale elsewhere.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR DECEMBER.

Howard M. Strong, First Prize.
Sarah E. Gannett, Second Prize.
Louise J. Strong, Third Prize.
Helen M. Winslow, Fourth Prize.
"Rupe Barnby," Fifth Prize.

HAND AND FOOT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HOWARD MARCUS STRONG.

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DESPITE the noise of the street I could hear the rumble of the great presses in the basements. The smell of fresh ink that reached my nostrils was sweeter than incense. This was Newspaper Row, and these were the monsters I had come to conquer. When hunger finally urged its claim I turned into the nearest restaurant and ordered my first meal in the city.

Although so taken up with my own thoughts I was soon conscious of being steadily regarded by a white-faced young man across the table. He had finished eating but still sat in his chair, nervously picking to pieces a menu card.

"Pardon me," he said, suddenly leaning forward, "are you a stranger in the city?"

I merely nodded assent.

"It's not very long since I came to the city," he continued, "and it won't be long till I leave it. I have been very lonely."

There was something so pathetic in his tone that my reserve was immediately cast aside.

"You are the first person I have talked to for days," he sighed. "There was no one to go to for advice or encouragement. Oh, I am sick of it all! Have you any friends in this awful maelstrom?"

"None," I replied; "I am a country boy, and I have come to the city to make my start as a journalist."

The young man regarded me pityingly for a moment and then broke into a harsh laugh. While he laughed the tears welled up in his eyes.

"Forgive me!" he cried; "I am all unstrung. I was laughing at my own failure. God grant that you may meet with better luck. Don't you understand? My ambition was the same as yours; but I have given up the struggle."

"And have you never met with any success?" I asked.

"Only once," he replied, with a faint smile, "and that was by chance. Last Saturday night my finances and the thermometer both registered exactly ten above zero. Like the night my prospects were black and cheerless. I had been the rounds of the papers and none of them needed any help or would take the time to look at my work. My clothing was thin and the east wind cut through me with every blast. I was weak with hunger and sick with disappointment. In the street where I room there is a little German bakeshop, and in the rear of the shop is one small table, where you can be served with baked beans in winter or ice cream in summer. I turned in there and expended ten cents—the last I had in the world."

"The door opened shortly after my entrance and a young woman came in hesitatingly. Af-

ter a word with the old baker she came back to the table and seated herself opposite me. By her hollow eyes and poor clothing I judged that her circumstances were as desperate as mine. How I pitied her! Just as I was making up my mind to speak of the stormy night, the baker gave a frightened cry and let the bean-pot crash to the floor.

"Mine Gott!" he roared, "a hand—and in the beans! Ah, friends, do not eat of what I have set before you. I have discovered the hand of a man baked to a crisp with my beans!"

"The young woman turned very white, and I no longer had any appetite."

"Look for yourselves!" the baker continued excitedly, holding up a brown hand on the prongs of his fork. "This in the bean-pot where the fat pork should have been."

"The sight was too much for the young woman; she fainted in her chair. The noise had alarmed the baker's wife and she came into the shop to learn the cause of the disturbance."

"Take this young woman to your room," I commanded. "See, she has fainted and needs attention."

"As the motherly old lady disappeared with the limp form of the girl in her arms, I turned to the baker."

"You thick-headed fool!" I cried. "Had you no better sense than to speak of it? Come, let us have a look at the baked hand."

"The German leaned against the wall and gasped for breath, while his eyes almost started from their sockets. Reaching over the counter I took the fork from his trembling grasp and examined the impaled hand closely. The member was an artificial one. The composition had been shriveled and discolored by the heat, and was truly an unpleasant sight. It was some time before I could convince the baker of the truth of my discovery, and then he insisted that I should take the thing away with me and say nothing of the occurrence."

"I put the hand in my pocket and departed, but did not promise to keep the matter a secret for it had given me a new idea. Going to my room I wrote out an elaborately padded account of the incident, and the next morning succeeded in disposing of it to one of the papers. I have just now been celebrating the receipt of my check by indulging in a hearty meal. How I wish that the young woman could share it," he added. "I cannot get her out of my thoughts. Her face was beautiful to me. I have never had any affairs of the heart, but—" He stopped abruptly and rose from the table.

"Won't you tell me your name?" I said. "I would be glad to know you."

"My name is Unknown," he replied bitterly.

"But," I persisted, "unless you give me your address I will probably never meet you again."

"My address," he answered sadly, "is Obscurity Flats, top floor, back. You will never meet me again and for that reason I want to leave a little remembrance with you. It was given to me by an old black man when I was a boy down in Virginia."

Before I could offer a word of protest he forced a gray rabbit foot into my hand and hurried away.

Two days later I saw in the paper an account of a suicide. A young man, name unknown, had ended his life at a miserable lodging house in a destitute quarter of the city. The description of his appearance was not very lucid, but I imagined that it was my friend of the restaurant. The idea grew on me until it reached the stage of a settled conviction. The paper stated that he would be buried by the city, and knowing that the poor fellow was friendless, I felt constrained to attend the sad funeral.

Calling a cab and giving the proper direction I was driven to the dreary tenement where he had given up the struggle for existence. As I stepped to the pavement a small avalanche of snow slid from the roof of the building and hurled me to the ground. I had not been the only victim, for, as I regained my feet the cabman was lifting a young woman from the snow.

"I am not hurt," she replied to my inquiries, and then moved on, shivering with the cold.

In answer to my knock a woman informed me that they had just left with the poor young man—they were hardly around the corner yet, she thought. Again I entered the cab, after instructing the driver to overtake the meager cortege and follow it to the place of burial.

With the exception of a few officials I was the only mourner; but my grief was sincere for I could not help but wonder if this would be the end of all my own hopes and ambitions. When the services were over one of the men asked leave to return with me in the cab. We were scarcely seated when he began to overwhelm me with congratulations.

"No, no," he said, "of course you can't imagine what it's all about—your surprise is natural—good news, though, I assure you. Fifty thousand doesn't come to every man so easily. Hard to believe, isn't it?"

"Sir," I said, "you are mistaken in the person. You do not know me."

"Good," he chuckled. "O very good, on my word! Lucky fellow! My fortunate young sir, old Glenn was undoubtedly eccentric, miserly; he had no friends—refused to recognize his own relatives—strange creature. He made his money baking beans and peddling them about—minus one hand from birth—lost his artificial one once in a pot of beans. You may

have read of it in the paper—good story—well written up. But he had one soft spot, did Glenn. 'If by chance there be one who voluntarily attends my funeral,' so reads the will, 'to him I give and bequeath the sum of fifty thousand dollars, this being the entire amount of my savings. And if none such appears, the said sum is to be converted into bank bills and publicly burned.' It's all rock-bound, sir, for I drew up his last will and testament myself—V. Crubleigh, attorney-at-law."

From sheer surprise I remained speechless. The coachman must have followed the wrong funeral—and with what results!

"I cannot think of it, Mr. Crubleigh," I said at length. "It is not rightfully mine."

"Bosh!" he cried. "O bosh! you have to take it—law awards it. I must have the will probated as soon as possible. Then if you choose to remember the humble instrument of your good fortune, by a modest gratuity, you will earn the everlasting gratitude of V. Crubleigh and family."

I was never fully convinced of the lawyer's truthfulness until the sum of fifty thousand dollars was finally placed to my credit at the bank. And by that time I was not in the least inclined to refuse the legacy. Having made Crubleigh happy, my next thought was of the young woman who had so concerned my friend of the restaurant. I determined to assist her if it lay within my power, and with that end in view, I advertised for the young woman that had been in the German bakeshop the night of the startling discovery.

The following day I received an answer by mail. I wrote to the address requesting a personal interview, and in the evening a man came to my room with a note. I was to go with him to where the young woman was staying. My guide was a kindly old German, and he finally acknowledged that he was the proprietor of the bakery. The person I wished to see was staying at his house—had been since the night she fainted.

The baker took me to a room directly over the shop, and there I was introduced to the young lady—Miss Laird. I immediately recognized her as the pedestrian that the cabman had rescued from the fall of snow on the day of the funeral. In a few words I detailed to her my strange fortune and the motive that had prompted me to come with an offer of assistance. During the recital her cheeks paled and flushed, and toward the last a broad smile played over her face.

"You are very kind," she said, when I had finished, "but you seem to be under the guidance of a strange fate. First of all, I will tell you that I am a niece of old Isaiah Glenn, whose fortune you now enjoy. I came to the city to study music, and hoped that my uncle would give me a little aid, but he would never recognize me as one of his kindred. The strangest thing, however, is that you thought Mr. Gordon had committed suicide; for that is who you met in the restaurant."

"And is he alive?" I exclaimed.

"Yes," she replied; "alive and in the next room. I will call him."

"So you had me dead and buried," said a voice at my side. It was the young man of the restaurant. "Well, I don't deny suicidal intent when I left you; but the same day I met Miss Laird, and now life has some very attractive prospects for me. You have certainly struck it rich—I confess to eavesdropping."

"Yes," I replied; "but the money shall all be turned over to Miss Laird without delay. It is rightfully hers." This heroic resolve had cost me a great effort; but few of us are proof against occasional attacks of better feelings.

"You will do nothing of the kind," said Miss Laird, suddenly entering the room. "I will not touch a cent of it. Only think, the money would have been destroyed if you had not carried out the strange conditions."

"I am determined," I said.

"And I am resolved," she persisted.

"Better compromise," suggested Gordon. "We all know the value of a dollar pretty accurately, and half of fifty thousand looks very large. Perhaps each of you could be satisfied with a part." And that is the way it was finally arranged.

"All our happiness has in some way been due to that baked hand," Miss Laird observed, as I was about to leave them for the evening. "It has brought all of us good luck."

"It was not the hand," I declared. "The rabbit foot was the real charm. And now I suppose it must revert to its original owner."

"Keep it," laughed Gordon. "I have secured a charm that is far more potent." And he must have spoken truly, for to-day he is a distinguished light in the journalistic firmament.

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The Lesson of the Christ Child.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SARAH E. GANNETT.

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HIS story is not written by Dickens, neither is it a tale of the slums, but is a true account of my own experience—of my sin and the lesson taught me—and that I may profit by the wisdom I have gained is my daily prayer. That I may not fail of doing so I am now writing out, for my

own use, the account of that bitterly unhappy time when I cared only for myself and my own pleasure.

I am the mother of two of the sweetest girls ever sent to brighten the life of a selfish woman. Once I did not think this of them, but imagined them to be the torment of my days, a constant hindrance to the life of ease which I wished to lead, and possessed of all the sins known to the Evil one. How could I have been so wicked, so unthankful! I only wonder that the dears have the least love remaining for me; but far from remembering past unkindness they are constantly hugging and kissing me "because we love you so."

I was a young, thoughtless girl when my husband married me, an only daughter who had always had her own sweet will and learned very little except what she chose. My home was in the country, and my mother was a farmer's wife, hard-working and far from strong, and during her frequent ill turns I was obliged, from necessity, to cook and look after the house and family; but, although in this way I acquired some knowledge of the duties of a house-mother, I cordially hated them, and when I married and had a house of my own to manage, I despised the work, and instead of taking interest and pride in keeping the house neat and tidy and serving to my husband dainty and well-cooked meals, I shirked all that I possibly could. My house was seldom swept or dusted; the stove never blacked unless Lawrence, who is the sweetest tempered, most patient man alive, did it for me. Beds often lay unmade all day that I might run in the streets, and roaches, spiders and ants lived unmolested in kitchen and pantry. The food—well, the less said of my muddy coffee, my sour bread and my burned meats the better. I do not do things in that way now.

By and by the baby came, and for a time I was proud of her and took pains that she should be sweet and clean and happy. Lawrence hired a woman to help me, too, so my work was lighter and house and food showed a marked improvement; but time passed on and another baby took up its abode with us, and then reverses came. Some competition between northern and southern cotton mills lowered the price of their goods and caused a consequent reduction in the wages of the workmen. Lawrence struggled on for a while, hoping the depression in business would be short, but was finally obliged to tell me that he could no longer afford to pay for help in the house. He was very good, although I did not see it then as I do now. He worked all the time he was at home trying to lighten my labors, and denied himself every luxury that he might furnish me with pleasures and try to

HEART DISEASE

Some Facts Regarding the Rapid Increase of Heart Trouble.

Heart trouble, at least among the Americans, is certainly increasing and while this may be largely due to the excitement and worry of American business life, it is more often the result of weak stomachs, of poor digestion.

Real organic disease is incurable; but not one case in a hundred of heart trouble is organic.

The close relation between heart trouble and poor digestion is because both organs are controlled by the same great nerves, the Sympathic and Pneumogastric.

In another way, also the heart is affected by the form of poor digestion which causes gas and fermentation from half digested food. There is a feeling of oppression and heaviness in the chest caused by pressure of the distended stomach on the heart and lungs, interfering with their action; hence arises palpitation and short breath.

Poor digestion also poisons the blood, making it thin and watery, which irritates and weakens the heart.

The most sensible treatment for heart trouble is to improve the digestion and to insure the prompt assimilation of food.

This can be done by the regular use after meals of some safe, pleasant and effective digestive preparation, like Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, which may be found at most drug stores, and which contain valuable, harmless, digestive elements in a pleasant, convenient form.

It is safe to say that the regular persistent use of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets at meal time will cure any form of stomach trouble except cancer of the stomach.

Full sized package of these tablets sold by druggists at 50 cents. Little book on stomach troubles mailed free. Address F. A. Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich.

CHICAGO HOUSEHOLD GUEST 50 cents a year. Sample copy free on application.

bring a smile to my gloomy face; but I would not be happy or contented. I was constantly fretting and scolding, and my house, the children and myself were dirty and ill-kept."

Thus time went on until Martha was seven years old and Elsie five. One evening in November, we all sat around the kitchen stove, the children playing with some bobbins which their father had brought them home, while he busied himself in making them a cart with bobbins for wheels, and I was trying to do the weekly mending by the light of a dirty, ill-smelling, coal-oil lamp. Little Martha had been sitting quietly for some time looking about her in a thoughtful way she often has, and suddenly she said, wistfully: "I wish we could sit in the sitting-room evenings, like they do at Jeannie Stewart's, and have a pretty lamp like theirs, and wear pretty dresses."

Lawrence glanced up, rather fearfully, I thought, and tried to hush the child, but she went on:

"Jeannie's mother is going to let her hang her stocking on Christmas eve, and have a tree Christmas morning, too. I wish we could have a Christmas tree, mother. We never had one, or hung our stocking, either."

"You can have a Christmas tree, fast enough, if you want one," I answered, grimly.

Lawrence glanced at me in surprise, and I went on:

"Just ask your father to cut you one and stick it up in the snow."

"But that won't be a Christmas tree, mother. It has to be in the house and have presents on it, Jeannie said," urged Martha, timidly.

"Well, if you think I am going to all that trouble for you young ones you are quite mistaken! and where do you suppose the money is coming from to buy the presents, I should like to know? No, you'll get no Christmas this year."

"But Mattie," said Lawrence, gently, seeing the bitter disappointment on the little faces, "suppose we let them hang their stockings this year; it is too bad for them to grow up and miss all the fun of Christmas. I can get some trifles to fill them that will not cost much, I am sure."

"Lawrence Dean," I broke in, furiously. "Haven't I said that I wouldn't be bothered with Christmas doings? I have cares enough already, and I won't have any Christmas hurra and clutter to look after. Now hear me! Martha and Elsie, you go to bed this minute. It's past your bedtime, and I've got a horrid cold coming on and am going to bed quickly as I can get there," and I sprang up and began my preparations for the night, scolding all the while.

The next morning my cold was bad, and the day after Lawrence got me a doctor and a nurse, and after that, for two or three weeks, I remember nothing but suffering and distress for breath. One night there came a change, and I heard them say that I could not last long. I did not care. I was too spent with suffering to care. I only knew that I was relieved from pain, and I lay in a dull stupor. Suddenly a light shone around me, and from its midst stood out the figure of a beautiful boy in shining white garments, with his serene blue eyes fixed upon me as I lay helpless before him. He spoke, and the sweet tones thrilled me like music.

"You are nearly through with your earthly life," he said. "Would you like, before you pass away from them, to see what will be the future life of those you are leaving?"

I gazed at him in astonished silence, and he continued:

"I am the Christ-Child, the anniversary of whose birth upon the earth you refuse to allow your little ones to celebrate. Come, see the effects of your training," and he laid his hand gently upon mine.

I arose, impelled by the power of his sweet presence, and followed him until we came to a great, glowing mirror. Here he paused and swept his hand over its surface.

"Look!" he said, quietly, and I gazed straight down into my own familiar kitchen. Lawrence and the children were sitting there, and a bright fire was burning in the polished stove, a nice supper was on the table, and everything was clean and tidy.

"Papa," I heard Elsie say, "it is so nice here! Jane does things better than mamma did papa."

Lawrence did not answer the child, but I saw him wince, and his hand and lip trembled.

"This is the memory which your children have of you," said the Christ-Child, sadly, as he passed his hand once more over the mirror. Again I looked.

Martha and Elsie were growing up now, hard, unlovely and unloving, with coarse faces and flashy clothing. A friend was trying to persuade them to give money and help at Christmas time to make a happy day for friendless children.

"No," they replied to her persuasion, "we never had a Christmas in our lives. Our mother did not believe in it, and we are not going to waste our money on other people. We have enough to do to look out for ourselves," and the picture faded.

"This is the heritage which you left your daughters," said the sweet voice at my side, and once more its owner swept the surface of mirror, and I caught a glimpse of Elsie strolling through a brilliantly lighted street leaning

SENSELESS SACRIFICES TO SUPERSTITION.

THE HUMAN SACRIFICES OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

It was the custom of the ancient Britons to honor Woden with a gigantic holocaust. A huge figure, bearing the rude outlines of a man, was fashioned of wicker work, and into this figure were thrust the struggling forms of men and women. Then the priests applied fire to the structure and the miserable victims of human superstition were roasted to death. We shudder as we think of such barbarism. We give thanks that we live in the nineteenth century and in free America. And yet, in this free land, superstition has its votaries and its victims. Statistics prove that each year one-sixth of all the men and women who die are victims



of a disease popularly regarded as incurable—the dread disease, consumption. It would be absurd to deny that in certain stages the victim of consumption is beyond the help of the scientific knowledge of the present day, though every year science grows stronger to aid the consumptive. It is equally absurd to deny that there is abundant evidence that bronchitis, obstinate, lingering cough, bleeding of the lungs, and conditions in general which terminate in consumption, are being cured daily by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery.

Why, then, are men willing to accept the theory that they are lost to health and happiness? Why do they accept a horrible doom with scarcely a struggle? Because

THEY HAVE BEEN ROBBED of hope by superstition. The priests of this superstition, the medical men, have said: "Nothing can be done for you," and they accept the dictum and sit down and await their fate. The general attitude of the average medical practitioner toward the sufferer from lung disease is cruel to the extreme. Having no help to offer himself, he denies that there is any help to be found. He pooh poohs a reliable remedy and says don't waste your money, or, as Mr. McCawley's physician said of "Golden Medical Discovery," "You may as well take so much water."

Yet Mr. McCawley took "Golden Medical Discovery" and was cured. He saw a testimonial from a man who had been cured of a diseased condition similar to his own. The doctors couldn't help him; they said it was "a case of die anyway," as Mr. McCawley looked at it. But he was a cautious man. He wrote to the man who claimed to have been cured by Dr. Pierce's medicine before he wrote to Dr. Pierce. That was business.

These testimonials are genuine and honest, and one fact will be noted in almost all of them—that the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery was not begun until the doctors failed to help or pronounced the doom of death.

The one vital question to you if you are sick will be—

WHAT IS MY CHANCE?

Can I be cured? Look at the facts. Read over the testimonials given below and then answer that question in the light of common sense. These people who were cured had lungs just like your lungs, and blood just like your blood. That's the main point to remember. The symptoms may vary, but the body is the same always, and the work of healing to be done in that body is the same in every case. At the least your "chance" of cure is as good as any of those whose testimonials have been given. But there's a brighter word of encouragement for you yet, in the fact that Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery has cured ninety-eight per cent. of all who have given it a fair and faithful trial. Now read these testimonials until you get the facts by heart.

"Twenty-five years ago when I was thirteen years old, I had, what the doctor called consumption," writes Mrs. Ella Taylor Dodge, Matron of the Home for Missionaries' Children, Morgan Park, Ill., Box 165. "He told my mother that nothing could be done for me excepting to make me as comfortable as possible. The pastor of the M. E. Church in the place where I lived heard of my condition, and, although he was not acquainted with our family, he called, and during the call asked my mother if she would allow me to take a medicine if he would send it to me. She thought that it could do no harm if it did no good, so he sent a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Dis-

covery. Before the bottle was empty my friends saw a little improvement in my health, whereupon another bottle was bought. I can't say now just how much I took, but I improved steadily, and to-day am a well woman, as you may imagine I must be to have the care of this Home. I have unbounded faith in 'Golden Medical Discovery.'"

"About five years ago," writes Cornelius McCawley, Esq., of Leechburg, Armstrong Co., Pa. "I was taken with hemorrhages, and I had eighty-one of them in all; sometimes spitting five pints of blood at one time. It brought me down so low that I could not walk nor get any sleep. I tried a great many things and went to doctors in Pittsburg, but got no relief. My friends gave me up to die, and indeed gathered two or three times—to see me die. My doctor did all he could for me, was very attentive, but could not stop the hemorrhages, and all gave me up to die, with consumption. I got a little book of Dr. Pierce's, and while looking over the names in the pamphlet of those who stated that they had been cured by Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery I found one case that seemed to be exactly like mine—the case of Mr. C. H. Harris. I sat down and wrote to him, describing my case. In about one week I got an answer from him, telling me that Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery saved his life, and he advised me to try it. I told my doctor I would try it, and he said 'You may as well take water,' but I thought it was only 'die' anyway, I wrote to you and commenced the use of the 'Golden Medical Discovery' and Sage's Catarrh Remedy. When I had taken six bottles I had eight bad hemorrhages; wrote to you and you sent me word to keep on with the 'Discovery' and the hemorrhage would stop after a while. I thank the Lord it did. That was over two years ago and I have not had any bleeding since."

If you are suffering from disease in chronic form write to Dr. Pierce, and consult him free, by letter. The offer to you of a free consultation by letter means that all Dr. Pierce's skill and experience, all the medical ability of his staff, and the advisory resources of his great hospital, for such the Invalid's Hotel and Surgical Institute at Buffalo, N. Y., really is—all these are at your service, absolutely free, without fee or charge of any kind. Write to Dr. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y., and you will take the first step to health.

Let no dealer foist on you any other medicine as "just as good" as Dr. Pierce's. Nothing is just as good as "Golden Medical Discovery," which has not that medicine's record of marvelous cures, and no other medicine can show even a shadow of such success in saving life as marks the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery.

THE PATH OF LIFE is full of pitfalls, into which the ignorant and unwary ceaselessly stumble, to the peril of health and happiness. Dr. Pierce, in his Common Sense Medical Adviser, has done for this unknown land what the explorer has done for the dark continent—mapped it and marked it, and shown how to walk it in safety. This great book on reproductive physiology, hygiene and medicine, containing 1008 pages, and over 700 illustrations, is sent free on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing only. Send 21 one-cent stamps for the book in paper cover or 31 stamps for durable cloth binding. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

on the arm of a man whose face made me shudder, so evil was it.

I could bear no more, and with a cry of—"I will not die, oh, I will not die! Let me have one more chance to be a mother to my girls!" I opened my eyes to find myself still in bed and Lawrence's dear face bending over me.

"Oh, Lawrence," I whispered weakly, "hold me, keep me, do not let me die!"

"No, my darling," he answered, gently, "you will not die. You are better," and I believed him, and sank into a refreshing sleep holding his hand.

I mended rapidly, and two days later, when Lawrence came in from his work I said to him: "Lawrence, when is Christmas?"

"To-morrow, dearie."

"So soon? I have lost a deal of time lying in this bed."

"Never mind that," answered Lawrence, with his loving eyes upon me; "we have you still. Two days ago we thought you were slipping away from us. We can bear anything now you have come back!"

I broke down at that and sobbed out: "Oh, I have not been a good wife and mother!" and then I told him my strange vision and begged him to help me right the wrong I had done.

"Surely, surely," said the dear man, cheerily. "We'll have a lovely Christmas, to begin with. Shall we have the little tree?—and the stockings?"

"Oh, but the cost, Lawrence! and I have been such an expense to you."

"Never mind that. I'll soon make that all up, and the tree and the gifts shall not cost much," and Lawrence kissed me and went out to make his preparations for the Christmas festivities, to tell the children of the good time in prospect, and to send them in to me to hang their stockings at my chimney side, while I buried my face in the pillows and thanked my

Heavenly Father that I still had time to mould my little ones into the noble, unselfish women He intended them to be, and save them from becoming the horrible creatures I had seen them in my vision.

THE BETSY SILVER MINE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY LOUISE J. STRONG.

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GIRLS, a letter has come from Uncle Billy. Come in and hear what he says."

"Can't it wait?" Beth asked. "We're just deciding where to plant the peas and I'm sure nothing in the letter can be so important as that."

"I think you'll change your mind when you hear what he says," Mrs. Raymond answered.

The girls flocked into the sitting-room.

"Well, what is it; has he declared war?" Beth asked, sitting down by her father's chair.

"Worse than that," he answered, "he has planned a robbery."

Beth laughed. "It's little he'll find to rob us of," she declared, "unless it might be one of the boys."

"Or one of the girls," he said.

"Oh!" she exclaimed in sudden comprehension.

They looked inquiringly at each other when the letter had been read, but seemed in no haste to speak.

"He seems to think it easy for you to give away a child," Beth said at length. She was usually spokesman.

"But my dear it is only for a long visit," her mother replied.

"And maybe he will do something for the boys if he is pleased with the one who goes," suggested Mary.

"With me you mean," said Beth.

"And why you?" asked her father.

"Of course I must go," Beth asserted. "If Mary left her school the house would fall, and Lois is frightened at the bare idea; then she is such a good nurse you could not spare her."

"I don't know how to spare any of you, but brother Billy has never written so kindly and it would be best perhaps for one of you to go," her mother said.

"If I could be well and able to provide as I ought—" Mr. Raymond began.

Beth interrupted him. "After all it's only for a visit, papa; and I ought to be glad to go. I am good for nothing here."

"Beth!" remonstrated her mother.

"It is true, mamma; you can never make a teacher of me, even Mary has given up hope of that and my music doesn't pay enough to keep me," Beth answered.

"We'll all have the blues," muttered Martin, who had been an interested listener, "and I bet if Uncle Billy gets you out there he'll never let you come back again."

Beth dashed her hand across her eyes and laughed. "You needn't think that, Martin; I guess if I tried hard I could be so disagreeable that he would be glad to get rid of me. And I'll write such letters home! Tommy Daudles' stationery will be of some use now."

"It's too bad of you Beth to speak so of Professor Newell," Mary protested. "I am afraid he will feel dreadfully about your going away."

Beth looked conscious and her cheeks grew pink, but the other boys came in and she was spared further discussion of Professor Newell's feelings.

Uncle Billy had sent a check for expenses and Beth departed in good spirits, "leaving a vacancy at home much too large for a girl of her size," as her brother Austin put it. At the end of her journey she was met by a large man whom she recognized as Uncle Billy by his resemblance to the old picture of him at home.

"Well, and which one is it?" he asked.

"I'm the second girl, Elizabeth," Beth said stiffly. He ought to have remembered that; they had told him which one was coming.

"Oh, it's Betsy is it?" he said.

"They call me Beth at home."

"Betsy was good enough for your grandmother, and ought to be good enough for you."

"It's too good. I'll have to grow to it," said Beth. "Suppose you call me Elizabeth if you don't like my home name."

"No, Betsy'll do," he insisted. "You said you were the second girl, how many are there?"

"You mean all of us?" she asked.

He nodded and Beth, delighted to talk of the family, gave him a biography of them all from the least to the greatest.

"Your father's sick a good deal, isn't he?" he asked when she had finished.

"Yes," said Beth regretfully, "and he has been worse than usual this last winter, but he is getting better now."

"He has no business with so many of you," Uncle Billy said a little roughly.

"He couldn't very well kill any of us," Beth answered demurely.

"Well, no, I suppose not," he admitted, glancing at her with a twinkle in his eye.

Before she had been there two weeks they were fast friends, and at the end of a month Uncle Billy was wondering how he was ever going to let her go home again. She learned to ride and developed such skill in managing her horse and caring for herself that she was allowed to roam unattended over mountain and plain.

She came in one evening much excited. "Uncle Billy," she cried, "did you know there was a silver mine about here somewhere?"

"I know the greasers say so."

"And don't you believe it?"

"Oh, I expect they used to dig out a little silver in the mountains here, but nothing to pay."

"I'm going to find it," she declared.

"Well, if you do you may have it," he said.

"Do you mean it Uncle Billy, really and truly?"

"Really and truly, and I don't go back on my word," but he laughed so heartily that she went to her room offended.

From that day she had a purpose in the wanderings, and went to work systematically to learn all that was possible about the silver mine. She rode miles to interview those who knew the country best; she talked with every greaser and Indian that she came across, and succeeded in locating its probable whereabouts within certain limits which she determined to search thoroughly. Being Beth, she could not keep all this from the folks at home and her glowing letters so fired the boys' imaginations that the two oldest seriously contemplated undertaking the journey on foot that they might help her. The older heads foreseeing probable disappointment, advised her to be prepared for it, and cautioned her anxiously against losing herself in the mountains or being carried away by wild animals, at which Beth laughed a little, saying to Uncle Billy:

"They think there is a mountain lion behind every rock, and as for disappointment poor papa and mamma think there is nothing else to be looked for in life, they have had so much of it. And if I succeed they shall come out here, and papa will get well."

The cautions set Uncle Billy thinking, and after that he required that she leave plain directions as to where she was going to search each day when she set out. He did not dare laugh at her notion now but was planning something as an offset for the disappointment he, too, thought inevitable, which would have sent her into raptures of delight had she paid attention to what was going on. But she was absorbed in her prospecting and spent most of her time roaming over the mountains on her pony.

Riding along one day she was startled at hearing a ringing tenor voice troling a gay song and she listened in surprise. "It sounds like—but it can't be," she thought.

A horseman appeared around a point, the song stopped at sight of her and the singer came up with outstretched hands, and eyes of wistful tenderness.

"Tommy Da—! or—I mean—Professor Newell!" she stammered, growing very red.

"Yes," he said, smiling, "Tommy Dauidles or Professor Newell, whichever you please. They told me at the house I would find you out this way, they thought."

"I am ashamed of myself for picking up the boy's nonsense," she apologized. "How did you come here?"

"The usual way," he replied.

"How did you know where I was? I told them—" She paused.

"Not to tell me," he finished cheerfully.

"Yes, I know but I bribed Martie."

"And then followed me," she said.

"Oh, I've been out here before, though I didn't know Mr. Wilson was your uncle. I've spent two vacations up at my friend Burton's ranch."

"I didn't know," Beth faltered, covered with confusion at having taken too much for granted.

"I don't mind telling you, though," he went on, "that I shouldn't have come out here this summer if you hadn't been here, Beth."

"How like home it is to see you!" she exclaimed. "I believe I am a little homesick, but I shall not go home very soon if I am."

"Why, are you so fond of the mountains?" he asked.

"I love them," she replied, "but that isn't the reason. I'm going to stay till I—but you will laugh at me."

"I never laugh at you," he protested. "Tell me."

"They say there is a silver mine here somewhere, and I am going to find it. Uncle Billy laughs but says if I find it I can have it."

"They hoped at home that you would go back with me at the end of my vacation, and so did I, Beth."

"Of course you don't believe in the silver mine either," she said disregarding this.

"Oh, the report may be true. All the Mexicans tell of it, but it has been lost so long that no one knows much about it. I hope you won't set your heart on it," he said earnestly.

"I have set my heart on it," she declared, "and I am not going to give it up."

"Then you must let me help you."

"No, I will not have your help," she answered.

And no urging of his could change her decision, but he managed to see a good deal of her nevertheless, for Uncle Billy had a great liking for him and was always urging him to stay with them.

"And he dawdles around after me just as he used to," Beth wrote complainingly to Mary.

And Mary answered, "You are unreasonable, Beth, I don't believe you know your own mind. You will never find a better man nor one who cares for you as he does."

"No, I am not unreasonable," Beth whispered to herself, reading Mary's words. "I know very well what he is and how much he—" she broke off, pressing her hands to her hot cheeks, "but I know too that he has nothing but his profession, and we are poor as poverty, and a man takes a heavy load upon himself who marries into such a large family," as Granny White says. He shall not do it."

So Professor Newell's vacation was drawing to a close and matters were still on their old footing except that Uncle Billy openly espoused his cause, but without helping him in the least. "You didn't see Beth I suppose or you would have brought her home," Aunt Martha said to him one afternoon when he arrived as usual.

Professor Newell looked anxious. "She is generally in before this isn't she?" he asked. There was a commotion outside; Uncle Billy rushed to the door. "Betsy's pony has come in without her," he cried.

Aunt Martha wrung her hands, Professor Newell with a white face sprang for his horse. Uncle Billy followed hallooing to every man in sight or sound, and soon a cavalcade was galloping towards the mountains.

They grew very anxious as the hours passed and darkness was closing in and no trace of her had been found. The men scattered out, covering as much ground as possible, shouting at intervals and listening, hoping for a reply, their torches flashing like beacon lights. At last there came an answering cry.

"Thank heaven she is alive," the professor exclaimed tearing over the bowlders like mad.

"Oh, Tom, Tom!" a voice wailed.

"Beth darling, where are you?" he cried.

"Here," she answered almost at his feet. "Is it really you Tom? Be careful."

But she was too late, the professor plunging ahead recklessly felt the ground give way beneath him, and dropped into a black pit.

"You should have stayed at the top and pulled me out," Beth said with a hysterical giggle. "I was never so glad to see any one in my life."

"Oh, Beth my darling are you safe?" clasping her close.

"I seem to be safe now at least, but my arm is sprained," she replied.

"For one awful moment I feared I should crush you in falling. I am going to take you straight home Beth."

"We'll get out first won't we?" she said saucily.

Uncle Billy was fuming at the top and calling upon everybody to witness that once he laid hands on her Betsy should never again expose herself to such an accident.

"Fasten the rope about her, Newell, and send her up," he cried.

"Uncle Billy I want a torch down here," Beth said.

"Come out of that!" he commanded.

"I won't! I believe I have found it and I won't stir until we see."

In another instant Uncle Billy had thrust the rope into the hands of the men and swung himself down.

"You little jade!" he said, but there were tears in his eyes as he picked her up and kissed her.

The torches disclosed an excavation in the side of the mountain, and Uncle Billy after examining it keenly a few moments called: "Come down here Morris won't you? I believe she has run it down at last."

Morris had had experience and at once decided that she had really found the silver mine, at which the men set up a hurrah. Beth was wild with joy, and made them tie a handkerchief to a stout stake and plant it firmly by the pit, for fear they could not otherwise find it.

"I've looked at hundreds of places that seemed just like this from below but when I got up here and saw that hole I felt sure I had found it and then I tried to see what was down there and fell in."

"And wasn't you scared?" asked Uncle Billy. "I was a little afraid of snakes, and a good deal afraid that you might never find me, and my left arm was helpless and I couldn't climb out."

"Why Newell and I would have torn down the mountains before we'd given you up," he said.

A thorough examination next morning showed indications that warranted an immediate opening of the mine. Uncle Billy promptly named it the "Betsy Silver Mine," declaring that Beth had earned it and it belonged to her, and later the family received this jubilant message: "Found! Get ready to come out here immediately; all of you. Particulars by letter."

Beth's arm was very painful but the doctor who had been hastily summoned pronounced it only a severe sprain which would soon recover.

After the mine had been talked over and settled to every one's satisfaction Uncle Billy asked:

"Did you think I would let you go back home Betsy if you had failed?"

"Why of course I would have gone home again," she answered decidedly.

"What do you think I am doing with all that building stuff out there by the grove?"

"Why, I never thought of it. Putting up a house I suppose," she replied.

"Yes, but what do you think I am building for?"

"I don't know," she said slowly. "Oh, Uncle Billy do you mean—but you can't mean that you were going to do that," she cried.

"Yes I do. I have been fixing to bring them all out here. I guess I've never been quite fair to your father; I had my mind made up that your mother should marry some one else, and I've never had much to do with them. He'll get well out here and with the boys can run a ranch of his own," he explained.

"Oh, you blessed Uncle Billy!" and she threw her sound arm around his neck. "And if I hadn't found the mine it would have been all right."

"It would have been all right," he repeated. "I suppose Professor Newell will remain of course. Your husband will be the best business manager you can get," he added mischievously.

And Beth turned a blushing, radiant face to the professor, but he did not object.

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A DAY OF TROUBLE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HELEN M. WINSLOW.

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AY, Philury," says my pardner one day last summer when he come in from mendin' the fence. "Le's give a garden party."

"A garden party," says I, "What's that?"

"Wal,—er—it's what all the fashionables give. I heerd over to Freetown the other day that Senator Hart's folks wuz goin' to give one, an' the postmaster said everybody as is anybody nowadays gives 'em. And By Gum," says Joshua, waxing profane, "If Jim Hart has got so awful stylish that he c'n give garden parties, I can."

"It's that new wife he married down in Washington," says I, "not Jim Hart then does it. Jim Hart ain't a person to put on style, if he is a senator. But they dew say that new wife of his'n leads him a rig. But I dunno 's that's any reason why we need to make fools of ourselves."

"Now thet's alwuz the way with a woman," says my pardner, his dander on the rise. "Let them get hold of a new-fangled idee fust an' they'll raise the roof to kerry it out; but let the man, the head of the house an' their rightful lord," here he swelled himself out and took on an important air, "propose one an' they want to throw cold water all over it."

"Joshua," says I in my most conciliatin' tones, for I see we were on the aidge of a fam'ly jar an' in immediate danger of fallin'. "You know I ain't slow to fall in with new ideas; but I dew hate tew see the pardner of my life joys an' sorrows made a laffin'stock of. The town of Pottsville ain't used to garden parties. They'd shy at 'em like a colt at a wheelbarrow; an' how'd you feel of you went to the expense of gittin' up a thing that nobody'd come tew? Besides, what be they? garden parties, I mean."

"Wal, I see a whole lot of folks out on Hart's lawn and in his grounds, all dressed up tew kill; they had a table set under a tent and had ice cream an' lemonade, etsettery; an' ez fur 's I c'd see everybody wuz enjoyin' themselves fust rate."

"O, a picnic on his own grounds," I said. "Well I don't think it's polite to ask folks to see you an' make 'em stay outdoors an' eat their own vittles. I put my foot down agin picnics."

"I tell you it ain't a picnic," snapped Joshua again. "I see he was gettin' wrathy again an' made haste to mollify him. "Is the' anything you would 'specially like to hev cooked for supper?"

"Hot biscuits an' honey would go well," he said. (He can always forget a grievance when good things to eat are round). But as he went out of the shed I heerd him mutter:

"Durn a woman, anyway."

The next day he came back from the post-office all wrought up again an' talked about garden parties till out o' sheer weariness of the subject I told him to go ahead an' get up his garden party to suit himself.

Now the trials I endured with that man gettin' up that party decidin' who to ask, how to ask 'em, what to give 'em to eat (for I put my foot down agin their bringin' their own vittles to my house first off), whether to set one table or a dozen little ones, where to raise a tent, whether he should wear his linen pants or his alapacy ones, an' etsettery, would fill a volume, and I ain't writin' a book. But the day finally dawned and rolled along into a hot afternoon. It was in the middle of August and Natur' done her prettiest for us, except thet Old Sol (I've seen him called so in books, meanin' the sun), was a leetle too warm in his attentions; in fact, it was pipin' hot. Joshua hed asked about everybody connected with the Methodist church, in which he'd been a pillar for thirty years, an' didn't want to hurt anybody by slightin' 'em. They begun to come about two o'clock, thet I heerd afterwards thet garden parties, when done real stylish, don't begin till about five. Prob'ly a hundred folks come in all, an' I don't believe one of those shook hands with me an' Joshua without sayin':

"Well, how-dye-do? thought I'd come early so's to see what a garden party is like, any-

way."

An' every one of 'em declared before the day was over thet it was nothin' more 'n a picnic where they didn't furnish the vittles. An' I noticed none of 'em didn't shed tears over that part of it, an' all went home sayin' they'd had an elegant time. Which I persoon they did, fer my cookin' stands high in Pottsville an' I laid myself out on that party.

I had a good enough time, but Joshua won't give no more garden parties; he said so that night when we finally tied on our nightcaps over two as tired heads as ever laid down to rest.

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for a man of sixty. He got the young folks to playin' crokey early an' they seemed to be havin' a real good time until Mis' Brown come, bringin' with her Emmeline and a young man from Boston with red hair an' glasses, who spoke in a languishin' way an' put up an eye-glass every time he was introduced to a young girl, sayin' "How-de-do" in a die-away, hold-me-up way that made me want to shake him.

Joshua asked him if he wouldn't like to play crokey and handed him a mallet; but the young feller only looked at it thro' his eye-glass and said:

"Well, really now, don't ye know, I don't know how to play these antiquated games. Haven't you a golf course?"

"His tone more than anything else maddened Joshua, and he said:

"No, young man, I bain't; an' if I had I wouldn't let you have it." He was going on to say more, but I pulled his coattail and made him stop. Nothin' makes Joshua so mad, as a dude; it is like wavin' a red rag to a bull.

But the young man didn't seem to sense his danger, and kep' a talkin' to my pardner. He asked him when a horse moults; when a pig ceased to be a pig and became a hog; which cow gave sour milk, and if he ever put up hay-seed for the market.

"Why," says he, "I understand there's places where you could get fifty cents a pound for your whisker-trimmin'."

Joshua ain't a fool, if I do say it as shouldn't. He knew the young feller was a-tryin' to guy him, and he set out to git even with him.

"Come right down this way," says he to the feller in a tone so cordial I knew at once there was guile in his heart. "The cow that gives sour milk is in the barn jest this minute, lucky you spoke. I alwuz love to 'commode you city fellers in any little way I can."

The young man didn't mistrust anything, but winkin' to Emmeline (I see him do it on the sly), he stepped off with the greatest alacrity. Meanwhile some of the men, deacons and elders and brethren high in class-meeting, caught on to what was goin' on and they folloed along towards the barn. It was all I could do to keep the women folks engaged in conversation so's 't they wouldn't hear. Joshua told me of it afterwards.

"I wuz boun' to git even with the loon," says he; "so I took him down and showed him a bed of smartweed. 'There,' says I, 'I notice you hev trouble with your eyes. If you would give 'em a good rubbin' with some of this 'ere weed things would look different to ye. Even hay-seed would be easier told from some other things.' I didn't think he'd be such a greeny, but he up an' grabbed a big bunch o' smartweed an' rubbed it well against his eye. It wasn't but a minute before he began to yell. But I paid no 'tention to him; an' pretty soon I ushered him into the shed that red cow that I took her calf from. No sooner did she catch sight of that flamin' red tie o' his with floatin' ends than she lit out for him and in less time than I can tell it in, she give him a boost that landed him straddle the fence. A scatter feller you never see. He fairly shivered. 'Would you like to see more?' I said. 'I've got a nice cosset sheep out here I'd like to interduce ye to ef you'd like to meet any more curiosities on this farm. Then there's a sow in the orchard, if you want—' But before I could finish, he broke loose an' the way he scooted for the house an' Emmeline was a caution."

That was when I see him come racing across the lawn like a madman an' straight for Mrs. Brown an' Emmeline.

"I protest," he cried. "I'm insulted at every turn. I shall go home. Such barbwary weally I never saw."

At this Mis' Brown she fired up.

"Joshua Winterbottom, I'm ashamed of you," says she. "I am going home. If this is one of your new-fangled garden parties I'll have none of 'em. Come Emmeline, come Mr. Emerson-Clark." And off they sailed, in spite of all I could do or say. As for Joshua, he wouldn't do or say anything to hinder.

Of course, the men all laughed and tee-heed and called it a great joke. I've noticed sensible men, as a rule, haint no great sympathy with a dude. But I was pizen sick of the whole performance. Besides I knew jest how Mis' Brown would go away an' talk about our garden party.

Things went on pretty well until time to serve the supper. I had laid myself out on that supper and all would hev gone well if Joshua hadn't insisted on helpin' pass things. There was plenty of young and pretty girls to do it; but in spite of that, or perhaps because of it, he wouldn't keep away from the kitchen.

He passed a plate o' sandwiches without any mishap an' I headed him off 'n the coffee an' cream. It was when we come to the ice cream an' cake that we see trouble. I dished it out an' give it to Luella Clarke and Juliette Babbitt to carry round on little trays covered with my newest embroidered cloths; but no sooner did they git started out than Joshua, who was git-tin' excited the tired he got, grabbed a fresh platter of cream that I had just turned out to cut an' off he went, passin' it for a second helpin'. That would have been all right but when he got out to the garden seat he tripped his toe and over he went, spillin' the cream all over him an' fallin' into it so's to completely ruin his alapaccy coat an' pants that he'd finally put on for the occasion. I had to put 'em into the tub an' give 'em a regular scrubbin' an' they shrank so's't they are too short in the arms an' legs, makin' him look like a school boy; but I tell him they are too good to throw away or make carpet-rags of, so he'll have to wear 'em out.

But that ain't all; he turned his ankle, and as is always the way with a man, he begun to yell with the pain.

"Philura," he howled, "come here, I'm almost killed. My leg's broke, an' all because you would make me pass things."

"Hush, hush," says I. "You set up an' keep still; I'll fetch the arnieky an' you try to be a man."

At this he quieted down a little, but he had to have the rockin' chair from the settin'-room fetched out an' his ankle had to be rubbed, an' meanwhile Mis' Perkins an' the girls had to see about the rest of the supper an' pickin' up the dishes an' washin' 'em. For a injured husband, that is if he ain't much damaged, is about all one woman wants to 'tend to. I thought the folks never would git cleared out; some had to stay to slick up the house and grounds a little for me, and some had to do Joshua's chores; but finally, about half past nine, the last one shut the gate and went away.

"Wal, Philura," says my partner, "I hope you're satisfied now. But you needn't never ast me again to give a garden-party nor a lawn-party neither, fer I won't."

And rememberin' his damaged condition I held my tongue.

AN UNSAVORY DISH.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY RUPE BARNBY.

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Some journeys toward the headwaters of the Mackenzie river, through the dense growths of primitive forest which close in upon him more and more ominously as he advances, he will find himself looking ever more expectantly, as he goes, for the little clearings in the woods that mark the locations of the trading posts along the route.

These last vestiges of civilization occur at regular intervals along the way, like a long series of stepping stones leading from civilized society into the heart of the wilderness; and to the traveler, wearied with a long day's march, they are indeed welcome sights, pre-saging refreshment, rest and good cheer.

Not far from the junction of the Coldwater Branch and the upper Mackenzie, is the station well known among all the hunters and traders of this vast wilderness region as "Uncle Ben's" from the fact that old Ben Washburne, a famous trapper in his day, has for years had charge of the post and all that goes on within it.

And it is not to be wondered at that "Uncle Ben's" has such a wide reputation among the woodsmen of upper Canada, for well the swarthy trapper deserves all the praise and commendation which are his. Never was there a tidier or neater home among the most fastidious of our city dwellers than are the station buildings under Uncle Ben's care, plain structures of rough hewn logs though they be. And as for Washburne's tins and china, many a neat New England housewife would open her eyes wide in astonishment with a glimpse at their polished cleanliness.

But it is in his culinary skill that Uncle Ben has won the greater part of his renown, and there are those who confidently assert, not without reason I must admit, that his cooking, all in all, is practically faultless. What roasts of venison and steaming hot rolls, delicious coffee and Canadian pancakes done to a turn I have eaten within the unpretentious walls of that wilderness trading post! It makes my mouth water, even now, just to think of it!

Some years ago, after a long day's tramp in the company of my guide, Joe Bentley, we arrived late in the day, tired and hungry, at Uncle Ben's. Ah, what a feast he spread before us! Such dainties one would hardly expect to find in the depths of the woods. What inroads we made into the viands placed before us, too, as Uncle Ben looked good naturedly on, justly proud of our appreciation of his skill!

One dish in particular I was surprised to see on this woodland table, and ate with good relish, tripe. But I noticed that my companion never as much as touched it, excellently prepared though it was.

"Joe," I remonstrated at last, "why don't you eat some of this tripe? You'll not have such a chance again in many a day."

"I know it," said he, amid his struggles with a huge slice of venison, "but it's an unsavory dish with me, and if you want to know why, I don't mind tellin' you, bimeby."

As we sat before the roaring fire, that night, enjoying our pipes in the frelight, Joe told me his reasons at full length, as follows:

"When I became of age, I decided to adopt woodcraft as my calling, and apprenticed myself to an old woodsman named Bushard. He knew his business well, was a good shot with the rifle, and understood wild varmints and all their curious ways. Not a winter passed without finding us with a good supply of pelts on hand as the result of the season's work, which meant of course plenty of money in our pockets in the spring.

"Take it all in all, Bushard was good company in the woods, his only fault being that he was rather inclined to be silent. Once in a while, however, he grew quite talkative about the campfire, and such times would even go to the extent, now and then, of relating some of his experiences. One incident in particular he seemed especially fond of relating, and told it to me a dozen times, at least. It was this:

"I once had a pard by the name of Baldy. What his real name was I can't say, because he was never known among us trappers as anybody else but just Baldy, and the reason was that as sure as I'm sitting here, he hadn't a spear of hair on his head, not one.

"Baldy always went through the woods bareheaded, because he was proud of his pate, the boys used to say jokingly, but in reality, in my opinion, because he lived in the hope that exposure to all kinds of weather might in time bring out another crop of hair on his head again; but if so, he must have been sorely disappointed, for it never came.

"On the contrary, something ten times worse happened. One day as we were picking our way through a thick spruce swamp near the base of a long range of high hills, Baldy without a cap as usual, all to once at the upturned roots of an overthrown hemlock, we found ourselves face to face with as big a grizzly bear as I ever saw in my life. Whew! but he was a whopper! You don't see none such nowadays.

from death; but not, alas, from serious injury. When at last I succeeded in extricating the poor, bleeding fellow from the vice like grip of the savage bear, I found him still alive, but the great tusks of the grizzly's heavy jaw had torn away his scalp from ear to forehead.

"Ah, but Baldy showed himself then a man to the core. In spite of his awful suffering he never flinched once while I bound up his wounds as best I could. Not a groan or complaint escaped him, but picking up the bit of skin torn from his head, he put it in his pocket with a laugh, remarking that after all, it was but a small loss, one which he above all others could best afford, and, poor fellow, I guess he was right.

"In a wonderfully short time Baldy was well and around again, practically as good as ever; but what do you think he did with his scalp? Why, he put it in a bottle of alcohol and gave it to a friend of his as a memento to remember him by! Baldy's dead and gone, long ago, but I have good reason to know that that friend of his still has his memento, which he carefully preserves; and that's all that there is left of Baldy, now, poor fellow."

"I served an apprenticeship of five years with Bushard, and every one of those five seasons we got on finely together, with no ill luck attending us until the very last. But on our last trip home from our trapping grounds, as we came back laden with furs and highly elated over our good luck, in some unaccountable manner, just how I was never quite able to understand, we became confused and lost our way.

"Now it so happened that we were scant of provisions that year, and for that reason had set out for home considerably earlier than usual. We had remained at our trapping, however, as long as we felt it safe to venture under the circumstances, reluctant to leave until it was absolutely necessary; and from this cause it came about that the amount of provender we held back for our homeward journey was barely sufficient to carry us home on a pinch, and a tight one at that.

"To be lost in the woods, fifty miles and more from any human habitation, is bad enough under any circumstances, but with provisions out and little or no prospect of securing sustenance from any other source, the outlook may well be termed disheartening. Day and night we plunged ahead through bogs and swamps and over ancient windfalls in the hope of striking the Mackenzie, scarcely stopping for any rest or refreshment at all and half crazed with desperation.

"I never saw the woods so silent and deserted as they were just at that time. Not a bird or beast of any kind could be brought to bag with the rifle, and our supplies were soon out altogether. We then took to eating roots and twigs, even chewing our leather belts and portions of our moccasins, but our strength was gradually failing us, and well we knew that if the river was not reached soon, we should perish.

"Realization of our danger spurred us on for a time, but at last I gave out, being younger and less inured to hardship, and sinking upon the ground declared that I could not move another step. Nothing that my companion could say could arouse me to renewed efforts. In vain he pleaded, commanded, threatened. I could only beg for nourishment in husky tones: 'haven't you a thing to eat about you, not even a bit of meal in the corner of your knapsack?'

"Suddenly Bushard's face brightened. 'Yes, come to think of it, I have just the thing, a little bottle of pickled restorative which I carry for just such an occasion as this! Here! take it and eat it! No, I don't want any of it, you can have it all.'

"It was like a bit of yonder tripe, but thoroughly impregnated with whiskey, and so revived me that I was soon able to rise and push ahead again. At last we reached the river and soon after a trading post, but so thoroughly exhausted were we that it was weeks before we were strong enough to continue on again.

"Bushard," I said to my companion one day during our protracted stay at the post, 'that was quite a remedy for exhaustion you had in your knapsack, well worth having by a fellow in case of accident; what was it, anyway?'

"For a minute and more he looked me full in the face and then replied: 'I told you, you know, that I was the only real friend poor old Baldy ever had,' and not another word could I get out of him.

"Well, it was weeks before it dawned upon me what Bushard meant. But don't you see, that 'ere restorative was that memento! Baldy's bottled scalp which he had carried in his knapsack thirty years and more!"

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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



The richest woman in the world lives under a fictitious name in a meager little flat in Hoboken, New Jersey. Hetty Green means to take care of her millions and to save herself from the annoyance of begging letters. Mrs. Green is sixty-five years of age but she has far more energy and animation than many a younger woman. She has been called eccentric, but her type is found in many a small village and it is her wealth rather than her peculiar ways that have made Hetty Green prominent. She manages her own business to a very large degree. Her dealings with lawyers usually end in a quarrel and she has been engaged in almost constant litigation. "Three things I detest" says this outspoken woman, "lawyers, tax collectors and beggars. I'll admit there may be some good lawyers but the people will be better off soon as they are all done away with." Mrs. Green is a shrewd business woman and has a genius for finance. She claims descent from Governor Rogers of Connecticut and says there have been many millionaires in her family. She learned business methods when a young woman by assisting her father in the management of his estates. She married at the age of thirty but Mr. Green is rather a silent partner in the family. There are two children. The daughter is an attractive young woman and will inherit a fortune from both her mother and her aunt. The father is a member of several clubs in New York but Mrs. Green has never made any social effort. The busy world of downtown New York knows Hetty Green well and fears her but to Society she is utterly unknown.

Elbert Hubbard is the Philistine whose sayings and doings have amused the country and inspired the town of East Aurora, New York. He publishes the Philistine, a periodical of protest and brown paper. Mr. Hubbard's personality is as unique as his magazine. As he writes the most of the magazine each month his opinions have been widely read. He hails from the State of Illinois and has brought something of the spirit of his native state to the little town that he has made well known. Mr. Hubbard was and is a practical stock breeder. He has also written a number of books. Little Journeys to the Homes of Great and Good Men, two or three novels, many essays and a historical novel Time and Chance, which tells the story of John Brown. He published a short sermon in the Philistine called "A Message to Garcia." This has been widely read. The New York Central Railroad had thousands of copies printed for free distribution after it had placed a copy in the hands of each employee of the road. Sermons were preached in the pulpit in this practical preachment of the East Aurora publisher. Mr. Hubbard's best work has been that of practical philanthropy instead of acrid protest. He has established at East Aurora an artistic book bindery known as the Reycroft Press. The best and most artistic work on this line is done here by country boys and girls. A book binder was imported from Germany and he gave lessons in the art of binding by hand. Now the Reycroft Press turns out one hundred dollar editions of Shakespeare's sonnets, exquisite books in flexible leather covers with satin linings, books printed on real vellum and many other illustrations of all that is beautiful, artistic and expensive. The workers in the shop are paid good wages and share profits; they have a fifteen minute recess in the morning, an hour at noon and all of Saturday afternoon. The work shop is a club room where baths and a piano may be used. Mr. Hubbard works about the shop in bicycle breeches and flannel shirt. His piercing black eyes see everything but he never commands—only encourages and advises. His work is changing the whole life of the little town—hand labor has its old recognition as one of the highest means of expressing personality. It is a bit of old Europe reproduced in America and fulfilling the practical and the poetical. Mr. Hubbard's success is as unique as the man.

The name "F. Oppen" signed to a caricature is a promise of fun. For twenty years his name has been a synonym for fun, wit and humor. His sketches and caricatures have kept all America laughing and his fertile brain seems far from being exhausted. Mr. Oppen was born in Ohio in 1857. From his earliest years he wished to be an artist but when he left school at the age of fourteen it was to take a position in a village store. Then he became a printer's devil and soon rose to be type-setter. Then he drifted to New York where he finally accepted employment in a store. He exercised his artistic ability by illustrating window cards advertising some special line of goods. All his leisure hours were spent in sketching and the comic vein was prominent. These rough sketches were taken from one newspaper to another and finally some were accepted. Then Mr. Oppen left the store and finally accepted a salaried position with "Leslie." Three years later he became a member of the staff of Puck and remained with that paper for nearly eighteen years. His success and that of the paper are inseparable. Last spring he became one of the staff of the New York Journal. Mr. Oppen makes sketches of people, scenery and events and then works out his ideas by himself. He says that he reads the newspapers and follows current events and his caricatures suggest themselves to him. The man who has made millions laugh has certainly given a substantial contribution to the world's welfare. His caricatures have furnished endless merriment but they have had and do have a most important political effect.

The heads of great libraries are coming to be recognized more and more as powerful factors in the intellectual life of the nation. The new librarian of Columbia University is Dr. James H. Canfield who resigned the presidency of Ohio State University to accept this position. Dr. Canfield is well known both in the east and the west. He is a man of great personal magnetism and an orator of no mean power. He has had a varied experience in the educational world from the time of his graduation from Williams College in 1888 until the present time. The first twenty years of his life were spent in Brooklyn, where his father is a well-known clergyman. His early education was at the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute. He entered the educational field as Superintendent of the schools of St. Joseph, Missouri. He next went to the University of Kansas where he filled the chairs of history, literature and political science successively until the year 1891. The Ohio State University then called him and under his successful administration the school doubled in numbers. The income was vastly increased and many new buildings were added. Dr. Canfield has been called an educational expansionist. It is believed that he will co-operate with Dr. Billings the head of the Public Library in New York in making the library facilities of the city worthy of the greatest city of the greatest nation on earth.



Few subjects have been of greater interest than the great international cup races for the coveted cup that America has held since the "fifties." The captains of the racing yachts are a powerful factor in success. The cup defender *Columbia* was sailed by a man who comes of a family of yachtsmen. Not the kind of yachtsmen who own steam yachts but the kind who build boats and sail them. The Barr family are known to all the yachting men in the country. They are Scotch and the father of the *Columbia's* captain built and sailed boats and small yachts on the Clyde. His sons and grandsons have followed the sea. His son John Barr is a famous prize winner and his grandson who is twenty-seven, commands the *Shona*. Captain Charles Barr, the *Columbia's* captain, was born in Scotland in 1864. He spent much of his early life in school and even studied law but the scent of the salt was in his nostrils and before he was twenty he had turned his back on scholastic things and shipped under his brother as a common hand. He rose to the command and has been captain of the *Wasp* the *Gloriana*, and the

Navajo. He has also sailed the *Vigilant* and the *Colonia*. He is in charge of the *Colonia* at present but was allowed to take command of the *Columbia* to defend the cup. All his racing experience has been in American waters and he is now a naturalized citizen of the United States.



The war in the Transvaal emphasizes the fact that the Peace Conference last summer at The Hague was more poetical than practical in its results. At the same time it makes the personality of the man whose work suggested the Conference of more than ordinary interest. Baron Johann von Block is a Russian official of high rank. He gave eight years of hard and exhaustive study to modern conditions of warfare and the result was "The War of the Future" a book in six volumes. It was owing to the powerful effect of this book upon the mind of the Czar of Russia that the call for disarmament was issued. The book itself does not appeal directly for the abolition of war. It gives a powerfully graphic picture of the result, the miseries and horrors of conflict are so vividly portrayed that the conclusion that war must not be tolerated is forced upon the reader. The statement that a war between the nations of the Dual and Triple Alliance would put 15,000,000 men in the field with a daily expense of \$20,000,000 sets even political economists to counting the cost of war. It is a practical estimate of war from the side of the expert in destructive weapons, the political economists and the humanitarian. Baron von Block is no visionary nor dreamer but from his earliest years he has had a horror of war. He is sixty-five years old but his piercing eyes and quick energetic movements make him seem much younger. He is quick in manner except when he becomes excited in a discussion on his favorite topic, the barbarity of war. Then he is fierce and forceful. He speaks English fairly well and also uses eight or nine other languages. He was a prominent figure at the Peace Conference. It must have been very gratifying to him to meet the ablest men of all nations gathered to discuss the question of a universal peace. In spite of war and rumors of war the Peace Conference marked an epoch in civilization and Baron Von Block was the strongest factor in bringing about that result.

From a ranch in far away Australia comes the leading soprano singer of the world—Melba. November brought the season of grand opera to New York and chief in the galaxy of stars was the woman who was Nellie Mitchell. The Australian nightingale is today the greatest prima donna of the times and she owes it all to her own indomitable energy and perseverance. She spent the greater part of her childhood on her father's ranches in the Australian wilderness. A small part of each year was spent in Melbourne and from that city the great singer takes her stage name. She comes of a musical family, her father having a very fine baritone voice. She did her share of the housework and washed and wiped dishes or did any other tasks within her childish power.



She taught herself to play on the piano and later had instruction in Melbourne. She tells of her sorrow when they were forced to leave town and return to the ranch and she was deprived of her piano. Her father pacified her by furnishing a concertina. When the traveling minister came Melba assisted at services by playing on her concertina. At this time it was her ambition to become a great pianist but her father disapproved of her adopting music as a profession. Her first public appearance was made at a concert given in the town hall by some children. Melba sang the "Last Rose of Summer," and "Coming thro' the Rye." She continued to study music in a desultory way and learned to play the pipe organ among other instruments. She was married at the early age of seventeen. Her determination to pursue a musical career gradually developed. She began to sing in public and finally was urged by friends to study in Europe. At last she found herself in Paris. The shy awkward girl from the Australian wilds applied for tuition to the celebrated voice teacher Madame Marchesi. Frightened and almost fainting she stood up to sing before the great critic who will not instruct pupils that do not show great ability. When Melba had finished her song, the celebrated teacher took both of her hands and assured the Australian girl that she would one day be her greatest pupil. Melba was poor and for two years she worked almost night and day to prepare for her debut. Success meant the world before her—failure, a return to the Australian ranch. The great trial came in Brussels. The rest of the cast sang in French but Melba did not know sufficient French to sing her role so gave it in Italian. The trial was a triumph and engagements came from all parts of Europe. From that night Melba's success was assured and now she stands at the head of her profession. She says the secret of her success is hard work and confidence in her own ability. She is constantly studying and practicing new roles for she realizes that there must be constant growth. She has never returned to Australia but has recently presented a portrait bust of herself to the Melbourne Public Library. Her father is still living and thoroughly enjoys the fact that his little Nellie is now one of the world's greatest singers. Melba is a very beautiful woman with an exquisite taste in dress. She is known in all the capitals of Europe but always prefers an American engagement. She says the American audiences are quick to appreciate improvement and to reward it with applause. It seems a far cry from Nellie Mitchell the little shy Australian girl to Madame Melba the great prima donna, but the distance has been covered by pluck, genius, hard work and perseverance. It is a life that teaches a lesson.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE COLUMBIA.

Great as is the satisfaction of the outcome of the international yacht race and the successful runs of the American yacht *Columbia*, probably for the first time in the history of these yacht races there is something of a real regret that the British challenger was not able to "lift" the cup and carry it back to England. This spirit arose from a feeling of fair-play

and true sportsmanship that is highly creditable to the American people, and is partly, too, a tribute to the challenger, Sir Thomas Lipton, as a gentleman sportsman.

The *Shamrock*, an Irish yacht of Fife's best design was in lines an American model and was an improvement on the *Defender*. For several days it was so calm that every attempt to race was baffled but the *Shamrock* apparently showed to better advantage. In the first race in light winds the *Columbia* won after a close race. In the second, the *Shamrock* was disabled but owing to an iron-clad agreement the *Columbia* sailed over the course alone taking the race. The third and last race was a decisive trial which so showed the Yankee yacht's superiority that there could be no possible question of the fairness of the outcome.

Sir Thomas Lipton, the challenger, is a self-made man, who by his own brightness and perseverance has made himself wealthy and respected. His conduct in the races has been exceedingly fair and courteous and nothing has happened to mar the good feeling on both sides. A great improvement was noticeable in this race by the government keeping the course clear and preventing any interference by excursion steamers; a thing that has caused much annoyance and many charges of unfairness in former races. The patrol fleet was under command of "Fighting Bob" Evans, who enforced strict discipline.

The appointment of Archbishop Chappelle as Papal Legate to the Philippines and his official recognition by the United States is believed to be a step which will greatly assist in the pacification of the islands. As is well known the Catholics hold vast possessions in the archipelago, and while the Filipinos are generally of that religion there has been much feeling against the encroachments of the various orders of priests. This was one of the most prominent causes of the insurrections under the Spanish rule. Notwithstanding this the Filipinos are good Catholics generally speaking, and it is thought Father Chappelle will have great influence with them.

The Papal Delegate will do the following things with the sanction of the United States Government: He will call a conference of the priesthood of the islands to be presided over by the Archbishop of Manila and will inform that conference that it is not the intention of the United States Government to seize the church property or prevent the free exercise of the Catholic religion.

He will show them that under the republican form of government in the United States there is the widest possible latitude of religious liberty. He will explain that the Catholic religion, under the sovereignty of the United States will have as much freedom of action and as much control over its parishioners as anywhere in the world, and that so far as the government is concerned there will be an absolute prohibition of interference in the affairs of the church.

Archbishop Chappelle will prove to the Filipino priests that opposition to the Government of the United States is unwise if that opposition grows from fear that the rights of the church are not to be respected, and that the Government of the American Republic is opposed to the religion which dominates the islands.

The Archbishop, accompanied by the best wishes of the President and the blessings of the Pope, is expected to remove much of the opposition of the revolutionists and to impress upon the people of the Philippines the fact that loyalty to the United States is not incompatible with devotion to the church, which is so highly respected in the United States.

The rainy season in the Philippines is practically over and the campaign will soon be opened. Already there have been several advances made into the interior, which seem to have been in the nature of preliminary expeditions. These while successful have accomplished no particular victory and have been attended with more or less casualties. Among those killed was Major Guy Howard, a son of Major-General O. O. Howard, retired. Major Howard lived formerly in Augusta, Maine, but has been in the regular army from boyhood.

The complaints against Gen. Otis continue to grow instead of diminishing and hardly a day passes in which some paper does not bring out some new story of incompetency. Admiral Dewey plainly states that "he has too many irons in the fire," and seems to be unwilling to have others share in military or civil honors in the East. Hardly a word is raised in his defense. COMFORT believes in fair play; but if Gen. Otis is as incompetent as pictured, and if he is simply a political appointment, the greatest service the President can do the country is to promptly remove him and appoint a commander who will have the confidence of the

country.

It is rather hard to get at the true state of affairs at present as the Philippine question has been brought into politics in the various state campaigns. The President in his Western trip came out boldly for complete subjugation; while the opposition raised the cry of "Imperialism" and "Militaryism." The real questions involved were hidden under cries intended to arouse prejudices rather than to appeal to calm judgment. It is noticeable that those that attack expansion seldom venture to say what their own remedy would be, if in power. It was Mr. Blaine who once pointed out the freedom from responsibility enjoyed by the oppositions. How much easier to be a destructive than a constructive statesman.

Brigadier Gen. Guy C. Henry died last month in New York City, of pneumonia. In his death the country has met with a great loss. It will be remembered that he successfully served until recently as the military governor of Porto Rico, which brought him before the public conspicuously. He was essentially a fighting officer and beloved by all who met him, while his soldiers fairly worshipped him. His military career was an enviable one. He graduated at West Point and immediately entered active service at the beginning of the Civil War. Serving with great distinction he was the recipient of many honors and promotions. At the close of the war he was transferred to the Indian country where he served with equal valor against the Sioux and Cheyennes. His tireless work caused the aborigines to name him "Fighting Guy," which sobriquet followed him to his death.



GEN. GUY C. HENRY.

In one of the bitterest winters he pursued the marching redskins across the Canada line and administered the severest defeat the red-men had received for years, but unfortunately froze his hands and feet in the exposure and was crippled for life. In one campaign he was shot through the nose and his left eye was destroyed, but he coolly said: "Never mind, that's what we are here for." His career as an Indian fighter reads like a romance.

In the Spanish War he was appointed a Brigadier General, being immediately after appointed a Major General of Volunteers. Soon after he was made Governor General of Porto Rico, from which post he was obliged to resign on account of ill health, but not before he had secured the love of the people to a remarkable degree. At the time of his death he had just been appointed to command the Department of the Missouri with headquarters at Omaha.

The Philippine commission has been holding sessions in Washington and recently brought out a preliminary report to the President, which was immediately given to the country. It is a clear-cut, forcible document and thoroughly upholds the course of the government in carrying on the present war. It takes the same position that has been taken by the administration; that the insurgents must be suppressed with force and that when peace comes, Congress will settle the future course of the islands. The commission distinctly urged that the United States continue holding the islands until the inhabitants are capable of self-government. The commission have been in the islands and made a study of the question. This report is signed by all, and as Admiral Dewey is one of them it will have great weight in influencing the average citizen.

Speaking of Admiral Dewey reminds COMFORT that his physicians have asked him not to continue his receptions, as it is too much strain. At the same time the whole country congratulates him on the announcement of his marriage to Mrs. Hazen, the widow of the late Gen. Hazen of the army.

The recent reverses to the British army in South Africa have served to show emphatically how closely the two countries have united in their aims and lives. When all Europe was meditating an attack upon America in the recent Spanish War, England's friendship saved us from attack. To-day, while engaged in a fearful and bloody contest, England finds herself flouted by every European nation while the United States boldly repays the debt of friendship. With scarcely an exception the American press is showing by friendly voice how much this country appreciates that she was our friend in need a year ago.

Another source of International irritation has disappeared by the agreement of the two nations on a temporary boundary between Canada and Alaska. By the *modus vivendi* we practically hold all we have claimed as ours, while we allow for the present the use of a seaport to Canada, under her own flag. This agreement prevents further discussion until both nations have more time to consider the question or are ready to submit the whole question to arbitration. Unless the unexpected should happen, the vexed question of what is the real boundary will be fixed by a proper tribunal satisfactory to both powers.

We regret to notice the critical illness of Garret A. Hobart, the Vice President of the United States, who for several months has been ill at his home in New Jersey. As is the case with most public men when taken with any organic or serious diseases, the actual facts were kept from the public and friends concealed the real condition. While it was generally believed that Mr. Hobart must be a sick man, the public generally was in doubt until his law partner announced that there was no use in concealing the matter further, that he was dangerously ill and never would be



VICE PRESIDENT GARRET A. HOBART.

that he was dangerously ill and never would be

TESTIMONY POURS IN!

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FREE OFFER TO OUR READERS.

From all parts of the country proof comes daily which shows that the Slocum system of treatment is doing a grand work in tens of thousands of homes where sickness and suffering had previously held victims in an iron grasp.

Consumption—that arch enemy of mankind—has carried away more people than all other diseases combined since the world began. Its ravages have been felt in every grade and walk in life, and yet all the money in the world a few years back could not stay this grim monster of death!

It remained for that medical genius and laboratory expert, Dr. T. A. Slocum, to solve the problem of destroying the consumptive bacilli. Since the day he began sending out his discoveries he has been the sole means of saving more than 80,000 people from a consumptive's grave.

Here is some of the latest evidence, which breathes of health and new life to all who heed it:

MR. WM. H. EPPS, South Boston, Va., writes:

"I suffered from weak lungs for two years and had despaired of relief. I rapidly lost flesh and became very weak. I employed a well-known doctor and he failed to do me any good. I then sent for another doctor, with no better results, and finally began to take several remedies for consumption, but all to no purpose. Hearing of Dr. Slocum's wonderful discoveries I sent for a full course of his remedies and the effect was magical. I continued the treatment faithfully and was cured. It is a wonderful blessing to humanity."

a well man. Even now the public does not know exactly what the matter is, but it is a generally understood fact that he is not under any circumstances to resume public life; and the constant bulletins from his bedside indicate that the condition is more serious than is generally supposed. Mr. Hobart was born in 1844 and has served in many capacities in a public way besides amassing a large fortune through his business enterprise. He was elected a member of the National Committee for the Republicans in 1884 and served continuously on that committee until 1896 when he was elected Vice President; he took the office the following March. Mr. Hobart being incapacitated for public duty, Senator Frye of Maine, who is the President pro tempore of the Senate will act as presiding officer of that body until March 4th, 1901, when a new Vice President will be inaugurated. Mr. Frye is an able man who has had a distinguished career in public life, and was recently a member of the Commission at Paris which settled the details of peace in the Spanish War. He is a brilliant speaker, with much energy and force of character and sound judgment. He is very popular with his colleagues and is considered a very able presiding officer.

The by or off year elections in the several states this year were generally for inconsequential offices, but owing to the nearness of the national political campaigns of 1900 much interest was centered in them toward the last as they became largely personal in the general canvass. The administration sought to have its general policy upheld, while on the democratic side Mr. Bryan attacked the administration and carried on a canvass largely relative to his political chances in the forthcoming Democratic National Convention.

For this reason the canvass in Ohio and Nebraska became largely a personal matter, and in each state the son was upheld, Ohio giving a republican majority of about 50,000 while Nebraska went fusion for Bryan's ticket. In the various states local matters entered largely into the canvass, so that the result as a whole was not clear. In New York, the city went democratic for Tammany Hall administration heavily, but republican gains were made throughout the state. Maryland, naturally a democratic state which recently has been republican, after a close contest was carried strongly for the democrats. There was a bitter factional fight in the republican party which lost them any hope of carrying the state, and at the same time democratic admirers of Mr. Arthur P. Gorman who would like to see him named for the presidency realized that his only hope was in a great democratic success in his own state, which was given. Other states showed strong republican majorities, and generally where the direct question was raised as to the foreign policy of the government. In Kentucky there was a three sided fight, which at the time of the writing of this article was in doubt and claimed by all sides. The result was largely due to a fight for the control of the democratic party within its

MR. RICHARD BLANK, Allegheny City, Pa., writes:

"I was a chronic sufferer for two years from catarrh of the head. Every time I got cold I suffered fearfully. My doctor could only give me temporary relief, but the Slocum treatment cured me in seven weeks."

These are merely samples of thousands. The Slocum treatment is a positive and masterly cure for all diseases where indicated. It heals raw mucous surfaces, restores the diseased tissues and builds flesh and strength.

This great system of medicine consists of four separate preparations, to be used together, and will banish every complication found in consumption, la grippe and its after effects, catarrh, bronchitis, lung debility, loss of strength, wasting away, etc.

Determined to prove the merits of his discoveries, Dr. Slocum again offers for a limited time his

FREE TREATMENT

to all sufferers who write. Simply send your express and post office addresses to Dr. T. A. Slocum, 98 Pine Street, New York, stating that you read the offer in COMFORT, and he will promptly send a full course FREE Treatment fresh from his laboratories.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—This splendid Free Offer to our readers is genuine, and we hope every sufferer will write the Doctor at once, and also request all suffering friends to do the same.

Six Steel Pens Free.

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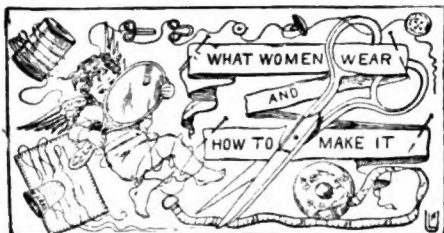
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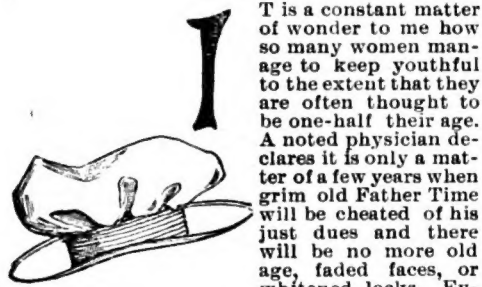
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



It is a constant matter of wonder to me how so many women manage to keep youthful to the extent that they are often thought to be one-half their age. A noted physician declares it is only a matter of a few years when grim old Father Time will be cheated of his just dues and there will be no more old age, faded faces, or whitened locks. Every one will have perennial youth and can shake their finger at the years as they approach, and all through a certain curious little particle of a goat's anatomy called the lymph. If this proves true the man who made the discovery should have a monument of everlasting material tall enough to touch the skies. But enough of sermonizing; every one loves a pretty woman and I wish beauty had been every woman's dower.

New York maidens, who are always to the fore, are now wearing an exceedingly smart waist made of French flannel in the softest of pretty colors, among which violet predominates, some polka-dotted and some plain. These



A STYLISH STREET COSTUME.

waists of flannel are really ousting those of silk and, as a change at least, are really prettier and so nicely suited to the season. They are made, usually, in Spencer fashion, the sleeves small and finished with a tiny flaring cuff, the front closed with small silver or brass buttons. Sometimes the back has a yoke just by way of variation. Another smart little garment Gotham maidens are wearing is a jacket of silk, in black of course, made in a variety of fanciful styles. A very smart little one is tight-fitting, with all its seams trimmed with flat folds, its edges scalloped and its revers covered flatly with creamy lace. Another is in Eton style, lined with white satin and provided with a dainty vest made in blouse fashion, of pinkish cream satin, covered with creamy lace, caught in at the waist with a gorgeous jeweled buckle. This style of coat adapts itself readily to either dressy or regular wear, being easily made very elaborate, or as sober as you could wish.

It is most fortunate that the Eton jacket and its various modifications continues to be fashionable. It is a style becoming to almost all figures and can be made straight around or drooping in the front as may prove most becoming. If the revers are rounded the collar should be also, of course. As an odd garment to wear with various skirts, at this season especially, such a little jacket is exceedingly useful. A pretty little coat in black broadcloth has rounded revers and slightly rounded fronts and is slashed up the middle of the back. It is faced with broadcloth and has a band edging it, stitched with white. The sleeves are faced with white satin,

OF TAN MELTON.

covered with Irish lace. When these jackets are lined with color the revers should be faced with panne velvet of the same shade.

Fashions for little folks follow very closely in the wake of their elders. When mammas are wearing their skirts wide and flaring their small daughters copy them. When tight fitting skirts are in vogue for the grown-ups, then snug little circular skirts are worn by the small ladies. Every change in modes sees this tendency to follow and in this season shown in the tunic, flounce, collar-cape, chemisette and rever. Such a smart little frock for a miss of twelve is made up in plaid poplin, the squares very large; yellow, a pale, soft tone predominating, barred off with pale grays, violets and golden brown. The circular skirt is perfectly plain and is faced to the knees with corn yellow satin. The smart little bodice has a coat back fitting the figure easily, the scallops bound with yellow velvet. The guimpe and blouse front is of pale yellow crepe de chine, set off by rows of narrow black velvet ribbon.

A beautiful little party frock for a girl of eight years has a yoke of dead white crepe laid in cross folds, with neck band to match, the popular broad line across the shoulders being exaggerated greatly. The yoke is fastened at the back with pretty coral buttons. Then the bodice proper, being really decollete, is seemingly held on by straps passing over the yoke across the shoulders. A ruffle or lace bertha is required as a finish at the top of the bodice.

In the sketch a pretty bodice for a "grown-up" is shown with the little velvet shoulder strap as an appendage. The material is rose-pink satin, covered with lines of the same shade, the velvet bands over the arm and down the front of the bodice being black, while jet is used to form the squares. The smart little walking coat is in tan melton, very snug fitting and jaunty, with its front closed in large scallops, each one sporting a handsome button. The flaring collar is faced with mauve panne velvet, overlaid with creamy Irish lace.

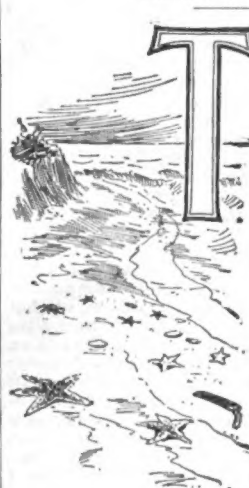
The stylish street model picture is made up in leaf brown satin broadcloth, a thin quality, all the edges set off with stitched bands of the cloth.

Fur hats are, they tell me, to be much worn. Made up ones, only lacking a slight trimming, are already shown in the shops and are most tempting to women whose fingers are deft at adding the finishing touches. Large toques made of soft felt are extremely smart and up to date and are bound to be popular because so durable. Their trimming usually consists of a ducks' breast, or painted velvet wings. Beautiful white plumes for hats are made entirely of white tulle arranged in queer little fleecy frills as feathery as possible. They are especially elegant on hats of fur or velvet.

Hats made entirely of tulle are to the fore for smart winter wear, inappropriate as they may seem.

QUEER FEET.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE creatures that live in the water have very queer feet. The Razor Shell, a mollusk with a most handy foot, if one may use such an expression, is able to change it at his will into a shape like a bell-clapper and use it to hold on firmly to a rock like a grappling-hook, or thrust it out like a tongue, and bore into the sand with it for food. There is another mollusk of the bivalve family that can not only bore with his foot and swim with it like a fish, and leap from rock to rock with it like a jumping pole, but he also uses it to spin the fine thread with which he anchors himself after his journey is done. Even the stupid-looking crabs and lobsters can do many of these things with their feet.

They have their feet in very odd places. Some water creatures use them as wings; with others they are arranged around their heads in a circle like a crown; and some are "belly-footed," or have one flat foot under the body. This single foot wears a horny plate or shoe for protection. The one-footed mollusks have some other very eccentric arrangements, as for instance, teeth in their stomachs and on their tongues, and eyes at the ends of their fingers! The Hermit crab steals a shell and then uses its foot as a door to close its ill-gotten house.

Some water creatures are called "jaw-footed," because they grasp the thing they want so strongly with their feet and will not let go. Others, having fastened their feet to a rock, or fixed object, contract them and so slowly push themselves along. But a much prettier way is to row themselves with their feet for oars, just as the graceful Argonaut uses his arms. The ocean snail floats his dainty raft of eggs by means of his one foot, for the raft is filled with air and consequently very light in weight.

The starfish have a great many little feet with which they easily walk over the bottom of the sea. As these feet are made like hollow tubes they can also be used as pumps and so pump up food at need. The sea urchins are very well supplied for they not only have the tube-feet but crutches or spines, with which they dig out hollow places in the sand and they play around these until a silly mollusk ventures within reach of the feet and is caught in a twinkling! Some starfish have such delicate, fine little tubes for feet that they are called "hair-footed," and only think they carry inside of these, fairy-like fishing lines and hooks that may be cast out and drawn up at



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I had suffered 12 years from falling womb, constipation, backache, sleepless nights, headache, nervousness, and general weakness all over. Since wearing your Brace 6 months, I thank God and you that I have new life all through me; can do two days work in one; no more terrible backache—all gone; I sleep all night long; my nerves are wonderfully strengthened; my memory is better than it has been for years; in fact I feel as young as ever. JULIA BRECKENRIDGE. Write for our free trial offer. Information as to prices and illustrated book, all mailed free in plain sealed envelope. Address, The Natural Body Brace Co., Box 27 Salina, Kansas.



pleasure.

There are some pretty sea-creatures that play they are a flower garden in the blue waters. One jelly-like animal has feet like branching roots; the Medusa—oh, how lovely and gay it is, shining like flame or glistening in blue and silver!—has tentacles which I suppose may be reckoned either as fingers or toes in sea-creatures whose parts get strangely mixed, and these are shaped like leaves. They shake and quiver in the water like leaves of trees in their ocean of air, but they are also paddles to move along the waves and lassos to catch their prey. There are sharp, needle-like thorns or spines on these curious leaves and they are sometimes poisonous as well. The polypus are prettier, for their tentacles when they open, are like flowers themselves. Would they not be charming playfellows down in the old Sea's pleasure ground?

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all Throat and Lung Affections; also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by adding, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 820 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

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GOLD Plated or Steel Dog Collar 12 pkg. XXX Bluing pkg. makes 60c worth of choice of many other valuable premiums. We ask no money in advance; send name and address; we will forward Bluing and premium list pre d. When Bluing is sold, send the money and select your premium. An honest offer by a reliable house; goods not sold may be returned. Write to-day. BROCKBROOK MERCANTILE HOUSE, 808 N. Bdwy, B. 5, St. Louis, Mo.

A Gold-Lined Silver Dish FREE!

To introduce our new line of Quadruple Plated Silverware we will for 30 days send either one of these beautiful gold lined fluted top Quadruple Plated Silver dishes FREE to any one sending a club of two yearly subscribers to SUNSHINE at 25c each, or send both dishes, all charges paid, for a club of three at 25c. each. These goods are made up in the latest 1898 style, are guaranteed to wear well, as they are the best quadruple plate. The very lowest store price of either article is not less than \$1.00 or \$1.50, and as these beautiful articles can be used for all sorts of occasions.

Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.

1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.

1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Dolly, 5x6 1/2.

1 Design for Tumbler Dolly, 4x4.

1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.

1 Design for Table Dolly, 8x8.

1 Design for Water Bottle Dolly, 6x6.

4 Designs for Butter Plate Dollys, 3 1/2x3 1/2.

1 Cut Work Dolly Design, 5x5.

1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.

1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x15.

1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6 1/2x6 1/2.

1 Design Water Lily for Dolly.

The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made.

With each outfit we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of EUREKA COMPOUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does.

A SPECIAL HOLIDAY OFFER TO EVERY LADY. If you will send us only 18 cents we will send you one Outfit, all charges paid, and make you a trial subscription to the largest, brightest, and best illustrated monthly paper for 3 months, postpaid. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.

It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

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EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st. For the best original letter	\$3.00
2nd. " " second best original letter	2.50
3rd. " " third " " "	2.00
4th. " " fourth " " "	1.50
5th. " " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new cousin into the *Comfort* circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Maud B. Rodgers,	\$3.00
Charles C. Powell,	2.50
H. Herbert Hall,	2.00
Mabel E. James,	1.50
J. Mayne Baltimore,	1.00

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Again the happy holiday season is upon us, and probably all my nieces and nephews are too much engrossed in planning glad surprises for others, and in solving the problem of making two dollars do the work of five, to have much time for reading this month; so I will make my remarks exceedingly brief. I shall only take space to beg of you not to make "duty presents." Do not give simply because some one has given to you and you feel obliged to pay the debt. Do not give cheap trifles to those who cannot afford to give much to you, and reserve your handsome gifts for those who will send you expensive ones in return. This is the season for giving, not for barter and trade, and to make it truly Christmas we must give, hoping for nothing again. So do, my dear friends, and may the very spirit of Christmas be in your hearts, and may you have a joyful season; and, in the words of Tiny Tim, God bless us, every one.

Our first letter this month takes us quite to the other side of the country from the home of *Comfort*, and tells us of the Government reservation near the beautiful old city of Monterey.

"One of the finest pieces of property owned by the United States is the Government reservation at Monterey. That so vast a tract of land should lie wild and uninhabited almost within the boundaries of the old Spanish capital, at first seems strange, but upon looking around, when one sees how completely it overlooks the bay and the surrounding country, it is easy to understand why it is thus held. The reservation lies between Monterey and Pacific Grove, and rises from close proximity to the bay to a commanding height. It is heavily wooded with the beautiful native pines and oaks and it is here, among these many trees, that the large yellow violet and the tall, delicate calachortus grow in such profusion. Countless birds live here and during the summer the wild notes of quail sound constantly in the sweet seclusion, for at this time they are busily engaged raising their young.

"Many trails lead in as many different ways through the trees but none show the wear of sight-seers so much as does the path leading up to the old barracks and cannon. Perhaps this trail is more frequented than it would be did it not also lead to the deserted cabin of the old man who for years guarded the reservation and who died suddenly, leaving the impression that he had left treasure buried somewhere just without his cabin. The wide, deep holes dug about these walls testify to the faith many have had and still have in this imaginary story.

"In the most beautiful spot of the whole reservation, where the earliest and latest sunshine falls, is the burial place of some of our soldiers. Perhaps no other view in the world is grander than the one received standing beside this quiet little acre, and no soldier ever had a fairer resting place. Turning eastward one looks far across the quiet

waters of the bay, with its many white-sailed fishing boats, to the mountains surrounding it, the vast evergreen gardens of the Hotel Del Monte and the rolling, wooded hills behind them. A heavy iron and granite fence surrounds this government cemetery and each Memorial Day so richly it is filled with all kinds of southern flowers that they remain here, although dried and faded, all the year.

"A little distance from here stands the imposing monument erected to the memory of Juniper Serra, the founder of the principal missions of California, among them being the beautiful Carmelo Mission at Monterey. The monument stands upon elevated ground, so close to the water that it is within calling distance of the quiet old wharf, and the shapely hands of the sculptured priest are extended as though silently bestowing a blessing upon all those who enter in or depart from this sunlit harbor."

MAUD B. RODGERS, Menlo Park, California.

A description of a country wedding which comes to me from Shiloh, Georgia, hardly seems to me genuine, so I must decline to print it. I fear, too, that our Georgia cousins would resent seeing such a picture of their people in print.

Hugh Clark, of Taylor, Texas, sends us a description of a contest between a cowboy and a steer, but as we have lately published a similar account I can only thank him for his letter.

Mrs. Elva Luper, of Wellington, Kansas, sends us a very interesting letter on the opening up of a new country in Oklahoma, which I am sorry to say I cannot use for the same reason—we have recently had very similar descriptions.

Charles Martin, of Santa Ana, Texas, sends us a letter for which I can only thank him, as its matter is hardly suited to our page.



OLD CARMELO MISSION.

While we are upon the subject of reservations let us go down into Arizona and watch an Indian dance upon a reservation there.

"Little did I dream what the next forty-eight hours would bring me in the way of Indian experience when I left Fort Grant for duty at the Indian Agency and Military Post of San Carlos, Arizona.

"Forty miles before reaching our destination large numbers of Indian men, women and children climbed upon our train and settled themselves in every vacant space on the box and flat cars which were in front of the regular passenger coaches; and as we pulled out of Geronimo the train presented one of the most picturesque scenes I ever witnessed. The freight and flat cars were alive with Indians in all their gaudy colors, red, of course, predominating. I was told that we were near the San Carlos Indian Reservation, and that the Indians had the right, for thirty years, to ride upon the cars whenever and wherever they desired as part compensation for allowing the construction of the railroad through their reservation to the mining camp of Globe; and also that the issue of beef to the Indians was to take place at the agency on the following morning.

"Arrived at San Carlos, as far as the eye could see were the small, improvised camps for the use of the Indians for the one night which they were to remain at the agency, intermingled with the bright colored dresses of the squaws. I noticed that the squaws and girls tramped about afoot, carrying their papooses strapped to their backs, and carrying also whatever other luggage there was in the party, while the men rode their ponies and carried nothing.

"While I was gazing at the Indians I heard some one say: 'Are you going to the Devil's dance to-night?' and, turning, saw around me some of Uncle Sam's boys in blue. They explained that a great Devil's dance was to take place there among the Indians that night and that this dance was performed for the purpose of frightening away the Devil when he had, through his evil spirits, caused things to go wrong in the tribe.

"After dark the weird, monotonous beating of the tom-toms could be heard, and I soon found my way to the brow of the hill overlooking the dancing ground. Below us, about a quarter of a mile away, was a great fire of blazing logs, around which was an ever increasing circle of Indian men and boys and a little to one side of the fire was a compact mass of Indians squatted in a circle around the musicians, who were chanting an unintelligible song, which at times excited with its wildness, then died away gradually to a low, long monotone, to be again succeeded by the wild chant. The squaws and girls were not yet visible. After descending to the circle I found that there were two classes of musical instruments, one a very hard, dry cowhide upon which several men were beating to keep time to the tom-toms; these were nothing more than skins tightly stretched over palm, and upon them the musicians beat in a peculiar manner with strangely constructed little sticks. The chanting blended with the music in an indescribable way.

"Soon great numbers of squaws and girls seated themselves outside of the main circle, and now all was expectation and many were the glances cast toward the large group of tepees on a hill close by, from which the dancers were to come. In a short time we heard the tinkling of the little bells and a peculiar half-whistling, half-crooning sound as the great circle parted and five little young Indian men trotted into it one behind another. Then bedlam seemed to be let loose. The poor old cowhide fairly leaped from the ground under the frantic blows dealt upon it, while the dancers, in their paint and bells and great, grotesque head-dresses and masks, made a most weird and uncanny sight as they whirled this way and that, always keeping time with their contortions and with that peculiar crooning noise, to the music and chanting, and ever moving in perfect accord with each other.

"When it seemed as though the dancers must fall from utter exhaustion they suddenly uttered a shrill cry and darted out into the darkness as mysteriously as they came, their places being supplied in a few minutes by others similarly attired. By this time soldiers, citizens and Indians were intermingled in the great circle and the dance grew wilder, the music louder, and even the stolid squaws had become excited and had moved up close to the great campfire.

"Suddenly the dancers shot out into the darkness and the Devil Dance was ended."

CHARLES C. POWELL, San Carlos, Arizona.

Now we will travel east and visit the grave of "Mary, the Mother of Washington."

"Mary, the mother of Washington, selected for the place of her burial spot on Kenmore land, close by a rocky crag and chasm which she preferred because, as she declared, it could never be cultivated. Here he remains lie, and the spot is marked by a monument worthy, by its massive foundation of granite and its simplicity, stateliness and beauty, to preserve the memory of her who gave birth to our immortal Washington, and who by her own virtues and discipline contributed so powerfully to make him what he was.

"Prior to the year 1833, one single person, Silas E. Burroughs, a wealthy merchant of New York, was the only one who came forward for a work which ought to have enlisted the hearts and substance of the whole United States. He volunteered to furnish all the needed money and means for erect-

ing a suitable monument over the grave of Mary Washington. A plan of a very ornate and beautiful monument was selected, a competent architect engaged, and the work begun. In 1833 Andrew Jackson, President of the United States, attended by his Cabinet and others, came from Washington to Fredericksburg and the corner stone of the monument was laid, with imposing solemnities. The



MONUMENT TO MARY, THE MOTHER OF WASHINGTON.

work went on until the square body of the monument was completed, with its carved flutings and its polished marble pillars. Then came a financial disturbance with the re-election of President Jackson. Burroughs failed disastrously and the work on the monument stopped. Burroughs went to South America and other places, hoping to regain his fortune so as to complete his work. But money never came. The enormous rough marble plinth for the spire did come to the wharf in Fredericksburg, and by contract was moved to the site of the monument. It was deposited amid the weeds, shrubs, and rubbish near the unfinished structure, and there it remained for more than half a century. No stroke of sculptor's tool ever fell upon it.

"After the Civil war appeals were made to Congress to appropriate money to complete it or to build another monument in its place, but Congress would not move. Then the women of America took up the matter; a national association was formed, headed by the widow of Chief Justice Waite, and appeals were sent out. All the women in the country bearing the name of Mary, and all men interested were urged to give, and money poured into the treasury. A plan for a monument, solid, stately, yet graceful and beautiful was selected, approved, and the monument erected was on the site of the unfinished one which was removed, although its most graceful parts have been preserved.

"This monument was unveiled with imposing ceremonies on the 10th day of May, 1894, in the presence of the President and his Cabinet, Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and other high officials. On the front of the monument, in beautiful raised letters are the words 'Mary The Mother Of Washington'; and on the rear, cut in plain letters, are the words, 'Erected By Her Country-Women.' The monument is fifty-five feet high and cost sixteen thousand dollars, and is claimed to be the largest solid shaft in America. The grounds are beautiful and well kept, and resorted to by tourists from all parts of the world."

Ada Reed of Inglewood, Cal., sends us a description of an Indian scalp dance which she says she witnessed in Idaho; but as it is of the same nature as the Devil Dance of which a description is given this month and is, moreover, rather too blood-curdling for our page, I must content myself with returning thanks for it.

West again our fifth letter takes us, and lands us above the clouds, on the top of the lofty Mount St. Helena.

"Along the great Cascade range of mountains, in Washington and Oregon, are a number of lofty snow peaks which range in height from eight thousand to fourteen thousand feet above sea level. To ascend these snow mountains is attended with great labor, difficulties and peril, and in past years several lives have been lost in the attempt; but, despite the dangers and toil the most of the great snow peaks of the Cascades have been scaled by daring and intrepid mountain climbers. Every season parties are organized to climb these peaks, and in almost every instance they are successful. The purpose of the ascent is generally in the interest



SUMMIT OF MOUNT ST. HELENA.

of mountain science. Often the parties are mainly composed of scientific men, professors in colleges, etc., and by means of these excursions many valuable discoveries have been made.

"One of the loftiest and most imposing mountains of the Cascades is Mount St. Helena, whose altitude above tide water is nearly eleven thousand feet. This mountain is located in the very heart of the Cascade range, in Washington, seventy miles in a northeasterly direction from the city of Portland, Oregon. The ascent of this colossal peak is attended with great difficulties and no little peril. Recently a party was organized to make the ascent. Several days were required to reach the base of the mountain and to scale its rugged sides, but finally, late one afternoon, the party arrived safely at the summit. They were footsore and weary, and concluded to pass the night there. It was a long, cold, comfortless bivouac, but the view of the sunrise on the following morning was indescribably grand, and richly repaid them for the discomforts of the night as well as for the difficulties and dangers of the long, hard climb."

MAYNE BALTIMORE, Spokane, Washington.

The letter from which the following extracts were taken is very interesting, but it was far too long for me to print entire, yet I think my readers will enjoy the following extracts from it.

"The battlefield of Gettysburg covers an area of twenty-five square miles in and around the town of Gettysburg, and has been converted by the Government into a National park, every foot of which is historic. The town itself, a quiet place of four thousand inhabitants, is filled with marks of the great struggle which took place there. Trees riddled with bullets, houses with shattered walls, and monuments of every kind, show where the fighting raged hottest. The position of each regiment, as in battle, is marked by grand monuments erected by the states whose men fought here. Indeed, in most of the streets of the town are monuments marking some place of interest, of some skirmish. The place where the first gun was fired is marked by the statue of Buford in bronze, and the very cannon itself is here flanked by four others. Numerous other monuments, representing various generals and their horses, are scattered about, while the intrenchments, artillery, ammunition and stone walls are preserved intact.

"Crossing the street in which the first skirmish occurred we enter the gates of the Soldiers' National

Cemetery. At the entrance are two huge iron pillars, bearing the names of the states which have men buried here. The grandeur and magnificence of this cemetery are beyond description. The beautiful driveways are bordered by maples which form a green archway. The road is of crushed granite, the grass green and velvety, and flowers and shrubs are full of beauty. The monuments are all of granite, no marble being allowed here because of its tendency to decay. The New York monument has bronze figures upon the four sides, representing different scenes in the war. The Pennsylvania monument, of white granite, stands on the spot where Lincoln made his famous speech, and has that speech engraved upon it. The work was executed in Italy. On its top is the Goddess of Liberty; grouped around, on the four corners, are the statues of Peace, War, Plenty, and Industry. These statues are considered the finest on the grounds.

"In our admiration of these monuments we lingered too long, and found ourselves locked in; but our guide helped us over the stile into the citizens' cemetery, where we found ourselves again on the site of a great battle. Making our way over a fence we found the main battlefield. Here, on every side, were monuments, artillery, towers, statues and flagstaffs; the latter, we learned, are of Oregon fir.

"As it was growing dark we hurried away to view 'High Water Mark,' better known as the turning point of the war, or 'Bloody Angle.' The historic clump of scrub-oaks is still standing, hardly larger, they say, than in war-time. The monument stands in front of the oaks. It is in book form, engraved with a suitable inscription. To the right is the historic stone wall over which the Confederates came by thousands, thinking themselves sure of an easy victory, but where, in the open wheatfield beyond the most of them met their death. Close by here is a lookout tower, one of the fourteen placed at intervals about the grounds, and from which may be seen the whole field. Culp's Hill, Devil's Den, Little Round Top, and, in the background, Antietam."

MABEL E. JAMES, Salem, Oregon.

D. W. C. Morris, of White Plains, N. Y., has our acknowledgments for favors received, but which I cannot use as none of them are quite adapted to our needs.

And now, with many wishes for a Merry Christmas and plenty of gifts for every one of my nieces and nephews I will say good by until 1900.

AUNT MINERVA.

St. Vitus Dance. One bottle Dr. M. M. Fenner's Specific cures. By mail, send for Circular, Fredonia, N. Y.

WHY DON'T YOU MAKE A SILK QUILT?

Because you have never seen the beautiful remnants for Crazy patchwork we are sending out as Samples free. Enough to make a block of eighty square inches, with a nice skein of embroidery silk and a sheet representing all the latest fancy stitches for only six cents, with our newest bargain book of goods for Holiday presents. Send at once to

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We are giving away Watches, Cameras, Solid Gold Rings, Sporting Goods, Musical Instruments & many other valuable premiums to boys & girls for selling 18 packages of Royal English Ink Powder at 10c. each. Every package makes 50 worth of fine ink. We ask no money—send your name and address & we will forward you 18 packages with premium list and full instructions. When you sell the Ink Powder send the money to us and select your premium. This is an honest offer. We trust you. Don't lose this grand opportunity. Write for the coupon today. Address: CHAS. E. COE, IMPERIAL INK CONCERN, 22 Adams St. Oak Park, Ill.

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\$5.00 SHAVING SET FREE for selling only six of our Electric Porous Plasters. We want to prove there is a sure prevention of cuts, scratches, etc. Write for our Lame Back, La Grippe, Coughs, Colds, etc., and will send you six of our 25c Plasters which you are to sell and return the money (\$1.20) to us and we will send you, all charges paid, the electric set and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal Swedish Razor, single value, \$3.00; 1 Genuine Horsehide, Double, Reversible, Canvas-back, Nickel-hung, Ebonyed handle Razor Strop, value \$1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic, making a grand \$5.00 combination. Every man should have an outfit in the house for emergency use. Every woman should see to it that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or her Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman. Don't wait but send to-day for Plasters. One agent sold the six in six minutes. Address

THE G. O. PLASTER CO., Box 1229, Augusta, Maine.

Shaving Set packed in a case eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal Swedish Razor, single value, \$3.00; 1 Genuine Horsehide, Double, Reversible, Canvas-back, Nickel-hung, Ebonyed handle Razor Strop, value \$1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic, making a grand \$5.00 combination. Every man should have an outfit in the house for emergency use. Every woman should see to it that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or her Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman. Don't wait but send to-day for Plasters. One agent sold the six in six minutes. Address

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FATHER JUNIPER SERRA.

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CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

Of course the bicycle will be very much in evidence at the Paris Exposition next summer and there will be on exhibition not only every possible variety of wheel and all the modern and most up-to-date improvements, but all the strange devices and even freaks that have been invented since the World's Fair. Major Brackett, secretary of the United States Commission for the exposition says the bicycle and automobile exhibit will be in the Bois de Vincennes in a building provided for the housing of the railroad exhibits of all countries. A space of 8,600 square feet has been secured for the American bicycle building, which will have a special track for showing the wheels in operation. American builders, it is expected, will make the largest and most comprehensive exhibit of any country as is to be expected, since we manufacture far the greatest amount of bicycles in the world. A track some two miles in length and running around the lake Daumesnil in the Bois de Vincennes, has been provided for showing automobiles and motor vehicles of all kinds in operation and a space of 4,300 square feet in the automobile building has been secured for American exhibitors. According to good authority every manufacturer will be represented, and the keen interest shown by foreign countries in this matter will make these places among the most popular at the Exposition.

Of course it is early to predict much with certainty regarding the wheel of 1900, but all the same work on the wheels for next year is well started. It seems to be pretty clear that most makers will make the chainless wheel the chief product of their output. The bevel gear has demonstrated its practicability the past year and there will be no further hesitancy in turning out wheels with this gear in large numbers. This sort of wheel has come to stay and will be more popular next year than ever. Makers seem to be pretty nearly a unit in regard to them, and according to those who seem to know the most about it, the wheel of 1900 will be much lighter than that of the past season. This will apply to the chain as well as to the chainless varieties. We all rode wheels too light in 1896 and 1897. Last year and this wheels were much heavier and the change seemed to meet with favor. But there has been a reaction and riders want lighter wheels and will get them. The past year the average road wheel weighed anywhere from twenty-five to twenty-seven pounds and some of the chainless ones came near to thirty pounds. It is predicted, however, that next summer the average weight will be from twenty-three to twenty-five pounds, which means a reduction all round of from one to three pounds. Also, many people have asked that seven inch cranks shall be placed on their wheels and particularly those who purchased late in the season. It is said that the seven inch crank will be the general thing next year. In confirmation of what I say, let us see what a well-known manufacturer said in *The New York Tribune* a few weeks ago:

"The new models will, as a general thing, show a decided change from those issued this year. The various styles of chainless wheels will be made in larger numbers than this year, and the opinion seems to be general that this sort of wheel has won its spurs, and that there will be no further hesitancy in turning out such machines in large numbers. This will mean a corresponding lessening in the output of the chain wheels. The tendency among manufacturers in the last two years has been to make their bicycles heavier. During the seasons of 1896 and 1897 the tendency toward lightweight machines was carried to an extreme, and now some of the makers are of the opinion that they have gone almost to the other extreme this year. This change in sentiment will probably result in smaller tubing, smaller sprockets and smaller tires all around. There is even now a demand for inch and a half tires by those who for two years have been using from an inch and five-eighths to an inch and three-quarters. The general effects will be to make the bicycles less massive in appearance. From 27 to 32 pound wheels are as common on the roads to-day as were the 20 and 24 pound wheels of two or three years ago. The desire all along the line seems to be to lessen the weight of the bicycle from two to five pounds, and this can be accomplished without loss of much rigidity or strength."

The price of wheels has been steady for the past year and there is to be no great change during the season to come. Chain wheels will bring from thirty to fifty dollars and the chainless will bring from sixty to seventy-five. This is a decided improvement upon the old days when you couldn't get a decent wheel of any reputable make for less than a hundred dollars. It seems as if anybody and everybody might own a wheel nowadays. Selling wheels, however, is not so easy a business as might be imagined. A dealer tells me that even in these days when cycle construction has become so perfect and everybody is supposed to know all about the "silent, pneumatic-shod steed," there are many instances among buyers of ignorance of the most common things.

In New York, recently, a man and woman went to a well-known dealer and began to inspect a bevel-gear, chainless, which was on a stand. The salesman explained the wheel and in the meantime made the "wheel go round" fast enough to eclipse Eddie McDuffie or Major Taylor. Finally the woman announced that she understood the make-up of the machine perfectly, but she thought she would not take that particular wheel because the front wheel did not move as fast as the rear. Then the man insisted that if it were a chain wheel the front one would keep up with the back wheel and they were both in solemn earnest. It took that salesman a good half-hour to convince those two people that only the rear wheel received the power and that when the wheel was ridden, the two wheels would turn together.

How do you reckon the rate of speed at which a bicycle is traveling? Here is a way given by an expert. He says each bicycle has a basis of time upon which an estimate of miles an hour can be accurately made by counting the revolutions of the pedals which occur within this period. In such an estimate each revolution represents a mile. To obtain the basis of time, multiply the gear of the wheel by five and divide the product by twenty-eight. For instance take a sixty-eight gear; multiplied by five it gives three hundred and forty, which divided by twenty-eight is approximately 12.1. So if the pedals make ten revolutions in twelve seconds, the speed per hour is very nearly ten miles, or if the number of revolutions be twenty, then the rider is going twenty miles an hour.

According to statisticians, when a man walks a mile he takes on an average 2,263 steps, lifting the weight of the body at each step. When he rides a bicycle of average gear he covers a mile with the equivalent of only 627 steps, bears no burden and covers the same distance in less than one-third of the time. Hence it is cheaper to walk than to ride, all things considered, isn't it?

When buying a wheel, unless you are already up in bicycle lore be sure you thoroughly understand all about the different parts of the machine. Learn how to attach and detach the tires, how to manage the valves, how to adjust the chain and how to remove and replace the pedals and cranks. This knowledge will be worth dollars and time and good temper to you when you are off on the road all by yourself some day.

Few wheelmen, perhaps, are aware that oil is a deadly enemy to brass and steel and that it accounts for many breakages in joints of bicycles that have been used for some time. When the machine has been well rubbed with an oiled rag the oil collects at the joints and



THE NEW CARRY-CYCLE.

gradually eats its way in, parting the brass from the steel so that the joint finally gives way. To clean the frame it should be wiped with a soft sponge and dried with a soft cloth.

It is not infrequently found that little blisters will develop on tires. They grow until they get as large as the little finger and fill the amateur with wonder as to the cause. It is because there has been a slight puncture through the rubber as far as the canvas and then through the tiny hole dust and sand have penetrated and so produced something like a wart. To get the dirt out the tire should be deflated, the rubber slit with a needle and then the dust blown out with an inflator. After that, rinse in some thickening solution and let fasten dry before you inflate again.

In London there is a movement on foot to insure against cycle accidents. A subscription of half a sovereign or so will cover one in all accidents not due to actual negligence or too open carelessness. When you have a puncture, all you have to do is to take your wheel to the repair shop, present your membership card and repair is attended to with no further trouble to yourself. The bill is sent to headquarters. Such an association would be a good thing in this country.

The wheelman has not been altogether selfish. He demanded good roads for himself, but he knew full well that the farmer and the teamster would be benefited as well. He had their opposition at first, but he did not care and persisted in his crusade. Today the farmer and wagoner stand side by side with the wheelman in the demand for better roads throughout the country.

One of the greatest results of the popularity of the bicycle, indeed, is the improvements on our national highways. All that science and

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invention have done to give us the automobile would be practically useless without the good roads which make them a practicability. The automobile cannot exist in regions where the wheel sinks half way to the hub in mud. So let us keep on ever singing its praises. Here's to the up-to-date bicycle of 1900. May it be more of a success, even, than any of its predecessors!

The cut this month shows a new invention already on the market and called the "Kalamazoo Carry-Cycle." They are particularly desirable for invalids and old people. They are said to be easy to run and steer by either a lady or a gentleman and they cost about the same as an ordinary tandem. The chair is detachable so that the bicycle part can be used separately when it is desired.

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JOHN A. SMITH.

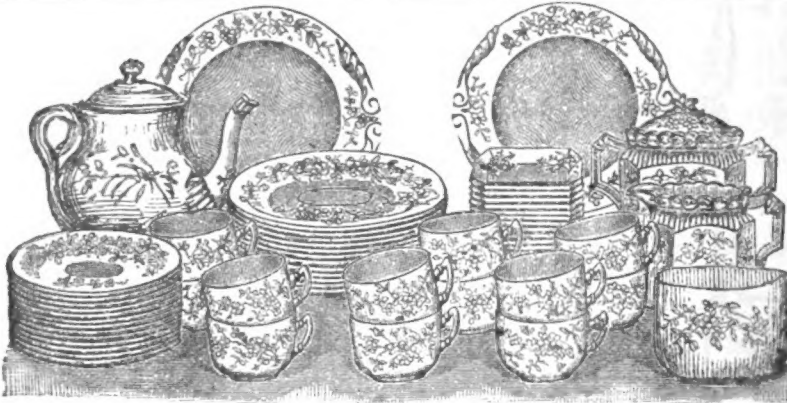
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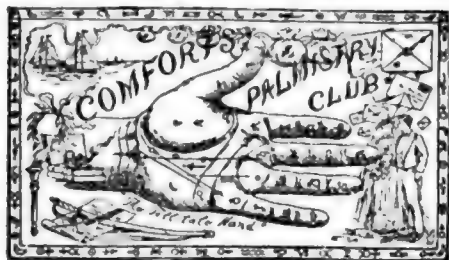
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If you will get up a club of only nine yearly subscribers to this paper this month at 25c. each, making \$2.25 in all, we will send you one of the best 56 Piece Tea Sets you have seen, or we will sell the sets for 30 days only, making a year's subscription to this paper for only \$2.98. This unheard of offer is only made from the fact that we have just secured an immense invoice of goods before the high flush time rates and full-tide prices were put on. These sets are of the latest and most beautiful design, of choicest coloring and pattern, they are regular \$5.00 and \$6.00 store price sets. This useful and ornamental set, which would adorn and beautify any abode of luxury, we shall give away for a short time to readers of this paper. Let us tell you what it is. It is a 56-piece tea set consisting of teapot, sugar bowl, cream pitcher, 12 cups, 12 saucers, 12 tea plates, 2 cake plates, 12 preserve dishes and one slop bowl. It is of the finest style ware, and every piece perfect in design and shape. Never was a more handsome set put together and it will be a marvel of beauty for years. It is the perfection of daintiness and every woman loves it the moment she sees it.

Remember we will send one of these sets to you by freight for a club of only nine subscribers to this monthly at 25c. each. If you delay until next issue they will cost much more. Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, \$2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some flat, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Plaster is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with flat.

Bear in mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

In spite of the fact that we keep the rules pertaining to this column standing at the head of this department, certain people still write asking what they must do to have their hands read here, how they must send them, what it costs, etc. PLEASE READ THE ABOVE RULES.

"Winifred" wants to know where the marriage lines are. The deep horizontal lines at the side of the hand under the little finger are the first marriage lines, although sometimes these appear when there is nothing but an engagement. For the corroboration of them as marriage lines, look for a fine line following the life line, or for a similar one following the fate line and close to it. If either of these lines appear in both hands the marriage is pretty sure to take place. The "Comfort Guide" is a little work on Palmistry issued by Cheiro, assisted by myself for the use of readers of this department. It costs fifty cents.

Another reader asks where Cheiro's "Language of the Hands" can be procured. His publisher is Brentano, Union Square, New York, and the book costs \$2.00.

"Charlotte" asks what it means to have a circle in the triangle, close to the head line on the left side of the fate line. The circle is a very rare sign and only has a good signification when it appears on the Mount of Apollo. By the side of the life line it would mean some injury at the time indicated which would of course affect the fate line. Two lines in percussion under the little finger, one being less distinct than the other, would mean that the person does not marry the one they love best. The Mount of Sun surrounded by short lines means that the talents will be somewhat scattered and the person will not get the best out of life. The fate line crossing an island on the lower part of the life line is not a good sign; when it begins on the Mount of Venus with an island it indicates some mystery or disgrace attached to the birth. The life line ending in a fork denotes poverty in old age.

The first hand to be read this month belongs to "Nellie, 313." This is a hand denoting an upright and rather artistic nature with fairly good lines. This person will make a good musician or artist. She will, however, be methodical in her nature and orderly. She will marry some person of distinction but will either grow away from her husband, or become less attached to him at about the age of thirty and the breach between them will never lessen. This event will cause her some worry at the time, but she will be preserved from any evil effects from it and it will be happier in the latter part of her life than she was the first part. Her health during childhood and youth was not strong, but improves as she goes on in life. She will travel a great deal and will once in her life be in great danger from drowning. She has an imaginative temperament and is oversensitive. She will be fond of books that deal with the imagination, such as novels and poetry. During the middle part of her life she will have some trouble with affairs of the heart, but these will pass away and she will be happier during the latter part of her life than she has ever been. This is a hand in which good and evil are mixed, but neither predominates.

"S. E. K." has a very peculiar hand; it is a hollow hand which always is a sign of trouble. There is some severe sickness or great trouble at about the age of eighteen or twenty and I think the life line is almost too deep to warrant the best of health. An early attachment at about the age of twenty results in marriage, but I do not think the marriage will prove of the happiest nature. The two parties will grow apart and "S. E. K." will have another attachment later in life which may result in a second marriage. She is a person of a great deal of tact and a strong imagination. She also has a good deal of will power and a highly

artistic temperament in all things. She will be dainty in her tastes and always likes to have things nice and pleasant around her. She has the courage of her convictions and will always dare to do whatever she wants to do. She will not live to a very great age and will probably have some serious attack of illness about the age of fifty. I do not see any signs of wealth in her hand and think she will always have to work as hard as her strength will permit.

A second set of hands has been received from "H. C. G." and from "Lygia." These have already been in the October and November numbers.

"A. B." wants to know what is the triangle proper. It is the three cornered space in the middle of the hand formed by the junction of the lines of life, of head and of health. The line of health runs from the Mount of Mercury down towards the life line. It does not appear in all hands in which case the triangle must be reckoned with the line of health as imaginary. This triangle is sometimes called the Plain of Mars. If this triangle is well traced and neat with good even lines it indicates good health, good luck, a long life and a courageous disposition. If it is large with the lines curving outward, with a good healthy color, it denotes liberality, generosity and a noble soul, but if it is small with the lines curving inward, it shows pettiness, cowardice and avarice.

Sometimes a triangle will form itself in a hand which was originally without it. This means that the health will improve greatly with advancing years. If the skin is hard and rough inside the triangle there will be great hardness and strength of nerve. A cross in the triangle shows a quarrelsome and contrary disposition and many crosses betoken bad luck. A star in this triangle denotes riches obtained with much difficulty and worry. If this star is the termination of a worry line it indicates sorrow.

The quadrangle is the square space between the lines of the heart and head. It is bounded on the east, so to speak, by an imaginary line coming down from between the first and second fingers and on the west by another from between the third and fourth fingers. This quadrangle should be even in width all the way through. It should be smooth and comparatively free from lines, in which case it indicates fidelity, loyalty and a good disposition. If it is too narrow in the center it gives deceit, injustice and an avaricious disposition. If it is too wide it shows imprudence and sometimes folly. If it is widest under the little finger, it shows that a generous nature has grown avaricious, if it is too narrow it shows a continual anxiety about reputation. Filled up with little lines, it shows a weak head. A well formed star in a quadrangle is a sure indication of trustworthiness and also of a considerable fortune won by the subject's own merit.

A quantity of little rays running across the line of life into the triangle accompanied by short nails are a certain sign of worries, estrangement of friends and similar troubles. A line starting from the Mount of Venus and ending in a square in the palm of the hand denotes a narrow escape from marriage with a bad man or woman. A line extended from a star on the Mount of Venus to a fork under the finger of Saturn betrays an unhappy marriage. A line going from a star on Venus to the Plain of Mars and then turning up to the Mount of Apollo where it meets a single ray denotes a great inheritance from some near relation. Two worry lines running parallel from the Mount of Venus to that of Mars denote two love affairs at the same time and a star joined to these lines denotes that the pursuit ends in trouble. Any worry line coming from a star on the Mount of Venus denotes the death of some dearly loved friend.

Digitus

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When I say I cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a life-long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Post Office.

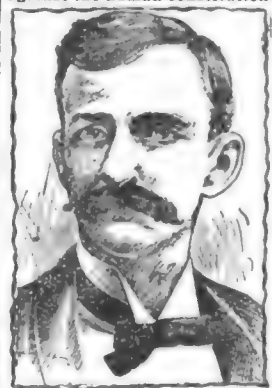
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Hon. Press Irons, Mayor of Nevada, was afflicted with kidney and bladder troubles for ten years, and could find no relief in the usual remedies. In one week he was completely restored by Prof. Weltmer.

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Anyone writing to Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo.,

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The following letter is one of the many in the possession of the American School of Magnetic Healing:

Prof. J. H. Kelly, Secretary, Nevada, Mo.: DEAR SIR:—Your mail course in Magnetic Healing was received some months ago. After reading same, I caught your idea and at once proceeded to put it into practice, and found I could accomplish all, and even more than I anticipated. I have never failed to get immediate results in all cases treated, and I have made a number of cures in cases that have been given up by the best of our physicians as incurable. I expect to devote my entire time to this work, but should I never use it outside of myself or family, would consider it the best investment I ever made.

J. T. IGLEHART, Meridian, Miss.

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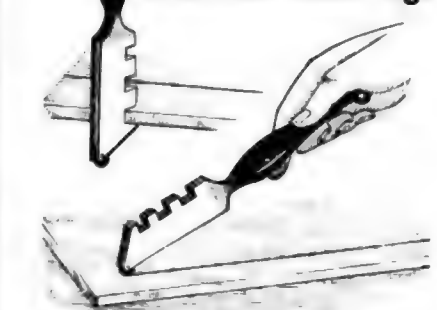
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What real fun our Puritan forefathers and foremothers did miss when they refused to keep Christmas Day lest they should seem to assent to all the abuses of the "Established Church." No wonder that their descendants have acquired a difficult set of principles, and that the Christmas holly and mistletoe and the Christmas greens show bright against the New England snows.

The Vanderbilt will make some of the New York papers come out with the pathetic head line, "Cut off with a Million." It emphasizes the idea that riches are relative. All the money worshipers breathed a sigh of relief when they read that the second son had come to the rescue of the eldest born with a gift of \$6,000,000. On that young Cornelius can keep the wolf from the door. "Cut off with a Million!"

Admiral Dewey has certainly stood one ordeal like a hero. That is the searching ordeal to all feelings of personal vanity in being required to face about a million pictures of himself. When we reflect on the trouble the average individual has in getting even one photograph that is satisfactory—the shock that his vanity suffers when he receives a bunch of negatives and the careworn look that is the usual every-day appearance of a photographer we know what a picture means to the average citizen. Our poor Admiral has had to face whole platoons of pictures, from the tiny one on badges to the ambitious old painting, and history does not record that he said anything. He may have been beyond the power of utterance but he certainly endured in heroic silence.

The genius that discovered that there were really only nine jokes in the world and that all the rest were variations, should turn his attention to classifying the motives of Christmas stories. Dickens is in a class by himself, but the rest! Class one—some one comes home on Christmas eve—long lost boy or daughter or lover or husband. Class two—the indifferent husband has a change of heart and surprises his wife with a gift. Etc., etc., etc. As for jokes—it is always the old one about the bill coming home. But when one reflects that human ingenuity has been taxed for one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine years we cannot wonder at the lack of new motive in the Christmas story. We can only admire the people who make bricks as good as new with the same old straw.

The message "Peace on earth good will to men" is one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine years old. Its latest anniversary, Christmas of 1899, repeats the sad fact that it is yet a sentiment not put to practical use. Never since the message came has the anniversary of Christ's birth found the whole world at peace. The wars being urged by the two great Anglo-Saxon nations are righteous wars in that they are fought in the cause of freedom and equality. As far as war can be right and necessary these wars are. In spite of this, the season of the birth of the Saviour must bring serious thoughts to all deeply interested in the ideas of universal disarmament and arbitration as a means of settling disputes. The vision of "peace on earth, good will to men" goes hand in hand with the poet's vision of the millennium where the war drums throb no longer and the battle flags are furled in the parliament of man, the federation of the world.

The proposition to make the Dewey Arch permanent finds eager support in all who saw the

stately beauty and grace of the white arch. Critics affirm that nothing so beautiful was ever erected in America and that even Europe with its treasures of art cannot match this work of American sculptors in honor of American heroes. The later proposition to make the arch endure in marble and to honor the whole navy instead of one man also merits hearty support. It is estimated that at least a million will be needed. If the committee would organize a scheme of small contributions and have a plan by which every American citizen should be asked to contribute twenty-five cents the sum would be forthcoming in short order. The arch is too beautiful to be allowed to become only a memory. This war has changed the destiny of our nation and the most thrilling events of the war were enacted by the American navy. Let the people rear the arch in solid, enduring marble.

People have become somewhat satiated with the various societies, books and preachments on how to live well. They have turned at last to serious discussion of the problem how to live long. The Hundred Year Club is an expression of this interest in the subject of longevity. Occasionally a centenarian is found who has never indulged in narcotics or stimulants and then the student of longevity mournfully lays aside his pipe and swears to shun the cup that cheers and inebriates. He no sooner comes to this conclusion than another centenarian appears who confesses to violating every rule of health, one at a time and in a bunch. He has never done anything that any one ought to do and he has lived a hundred years to tell the story. These are the exceptional cases from which it is impossible to prove or make a rule. The large life insurance companies prepare statistics that really cast some light upon the problem of long life. If you would have your days long in the land become a minister of the gospel. Out of every 170 ministers 42 reach the age of seventy years. The farmers come next in the record of long lives as 40 out of every 170 attain the desired age. Then come teachers and lawyers and last of all the doctors. Only 24 out of every 170 doctors reach the age of seventy. The choice of a profession then is something more than a choice of means of livelihood, it is a choice of long life or short. Theologians complain that fewer men wish to enter the ranks of the ministry. Let the statistics be published and the public understand that saving souls guarantees a long life and saving bodies insures a short life and the situation may change.

There are two graces of life that need careful explaining and application at Christmas time. One is "The Art of Giving," the other "The Art of Receiving." Without an understanding of these two arts the pleasure of the Christmas season may be turned into real unhappiness. The art of giving involves conditions that burden even the most delicate tact. The gift must not be of a nature that will create a sense of obligation in the recipient—on the other hand it must not be an actual necessity for few people are happy minded enough to take the view that they can get along without the necessities if they have the luxuries of life. Hence they procure the necessities, and a gift that is a luxury carries with it a double pleasure. To give a gift graciously as well as generously, to give a gift that shows the personality of the giver and an appreciation of the tastes of the receiver, all this and much more is a part of the art of giving. The art of receiving is even more difficult in its fine relations. It may be more blessed to give than to receive but it surely is far more difficult to receive with tact. How often is the entire spirit of Christmas marred by the fact that some one has not learned the art of receiving. The art is one so difficult to acquire, so closely related to all that is tactful and courteous in human relations, that a volume would hardly give the primary principles of the art. In spite of this the plainest person, the one least familiar with the arts and graces of society may understand perfectly all that is required to make one proficient in the art of receiving. Much pleasure may be added to the Christmas season by a loving consideration of these two arts—giving and receiving.

We find a singular lack of unanimity in the press utterances concerning our prospective ownership of Cuba, the Philippines and the Hawaiian Islands. The Jingo part of the press boldly proclaim the inevitable destiny of America to lie in the line of conquest, while the ultra-conservative portion bitterly deplore the growth of imperialism and foresee the downfall of the Republic in the signs of the times. It is with neither of these extremists that the thinking American, familiar with his country's history and precedents, must side. One of the principal arguments against the purchase of Louisiana was that no nation possessing such an extent of territory could hold together. This seems absurd to us but the modern inventions of the railroad, the steamship and the electric telegraph have made the conclusion absurd. At the time of its statement the territory was actually farther away from the seat of government than Manila is to-day. We have not found it difficult to govern this territory, but we have found it difficult with our form of government to reconcile the warring interests of sections. In a federal government where each part of the nation in time assumes an equal share in the government, the annexation or acquisition of new territory presents features of difficulty not possible under a monarchical form of government. We have scarcely solved the problem presented by the black element in the South and the Indian in the West. If the settlement of questions at the end of the war should force upon us the wardenship of this alien people, it is safe to say that the progressive American nation will find means to govern and assimilate the elements that seem

foreign to our ideas. We do not need this territory, it is doubtful if we even want it, but it seems political prudence to keep what we have won we believe we shall know how to do so. "Westward the course of empire takes its way" has been true of this nation and if extreme west not stopping at the line of the Pacific shall become "east" again we shall be equal to the problem. When Spain began her conquests of colonial possessions under Philip II, her imperial arms were a globe representing the world with a horse leaping upon it. In his mouth was a scroll with the motto, "Non sufficit orbis," (the earth is not sufficient.) We disclaim any such ambition; we are even content with the ocean boundaries that Nature has set—but if we are forced to take the earth by the fortunes of war we shall know how to accommodate our ideas, our traditions and our government to the strain.

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TWO-STEP.

FRANK R. GILLIS.

The musical score is presented in a standard format for piano accompaniment. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. The score is divided into measures, with some measures containing multiple notes or rests. Dynamic markings such as 'mf' (mezzo-forte) and 'f' (forte) are used to indicate volume. The score includes a 'TRIO' section, which is marked with a '1' and a '2' to indicate different parts of the section. The score concludes with a 'FINE' marking.

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Something About an Opera Chorus.

The attention of most every person is at times called to the peculiar fact of how little foundation there is for what is really a popular opinion. It is really strange how often an error will become what is supposed to be a fact in the mind of almost every person. Very often this is brought about by being told in youth some point that fixes the idea, and in later years examination is never made into the subject to find out how much foundation there may be in the belief that exists.

Just recently a newspaper paragraph in one of the papers of the day spoke in a slurring manner of the make-up of opera choruses in the metropolis, and suggested that more attention should be paid to obtaining cultured singers for such positions rather than to fill the stage with a lot of people lacking in character and musical culture.

The appearance of this article in a well known and authoritative paper caused much indignation among the better class of chorus singers and led to the representative of another noted newspaper making some inquiry into the make-up of the choruses then performing in the city. The interesting facts obtained relative to the make-up of one opera

chorus, which will serve as an example of all then singing in the city, seemed typical of the general run. Of the particular company which we mention, the information was elicited that no less than 85 per cent. had received a technical and thorough musical training in conservatories; that 35 per cent. had received a musical education in some of the institutions of Europe, and that over one-half had a grand opera repertory, in some form or other.

We all know how often derogatory remarks are made about chorus girls and how flippantly they are spoken of in ordinary conversation; but this canvas would open the eyes of any one to the injustice of the careless remarks which might hurt the reputation of any girl, for it was found that among the women of this particular chorus four were daughters of ministers. No less than 15 per cent. had been educated at convents or other religious seminaries, and 30 per cent. more had received a liberal college education. The parentage of the girls was fully as interesting as any other figures which were obtained, and it was found that over 60 of the fathers were men in the professional walks of life. Five per cent. of the girls were possessed of independent private means and had adopted this life in order to have something to do in the way of work, or because they had stage ambitions; and the closing fact, which was as interesting as the rest in this census, was that over 50 per cent. of the men in the chorus had a college education.

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ten us words of commendation on the success of COMFORT's music offer. Progressive people appreciate low prices for the best things. What is done every day in business COMFORT is now done every day in music, by giving the most value for the least money. Such an offer of sheet music for a cost just about sufficient for postage is only given by COMFORT as will be seen on another page.

Choosing Music For a Profession.

Often when talking with musical people we will hear vain regrets that some friend did not choose a musical profession or failed to study music harder when young. Such persons almost always express perfect confidence in their own powers to have met with musical success had they only adopted it as a profession.

It is to such people that COMFORT wishes to say a word; and more especially should the advice be heeded by those still young who contemplate becoming professionals mainly because they believe that in a social way the life is pleasant and that it does not mean work or sacrifice to attain success. To the first we would say that it is useless sighing over the past and the only question that can now present itself is whether or not you have sufficient musical ability to make it worth the while to devote the necessary time and money to it to make a success now. To look at the fact

squarely in the face, few people have musical genius. Many have ability and a certain amount of capability, and it is such that spurred on by the ill-tuned advice of flattering friends become filled with an almost conceited idea that they above all others have the true musical gift. The result is that hundreds of people with little or no ability rush into the field and crowd with a mass of half-educated instrumentalists or vocalists, who have taken this vocation with a belief that they possess sufficient talent to place themselves at the very top of the profession.

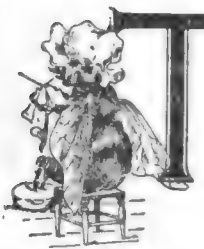
Those that are so carried away with themselves are destined to failure and a life of discontent because of their surroundings, and that they will fail to shine above others as they expected to.

To the other class who stand debating the question of the future we would point out that no one who is afraid of hard work, long hours and constant effort should select this profession. No matter how high and grand your ideas may be there can be no success unless you take a practical view and realize that in the musical as in every other profession success only comes after toil and sacrifice.

To those possessing a fair amount of talent combined with a love of the art and willingness to work, the musical profession is as every other one, a place where all may succeed moderately; but where but few can hope to possess the genius to attain the dazzling heights of the very pinnacle of musical fame.



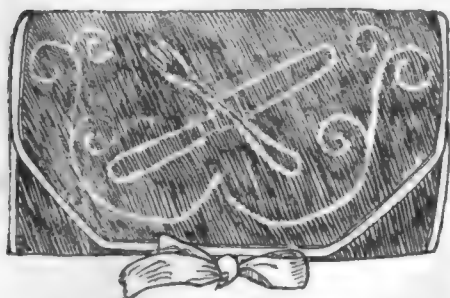
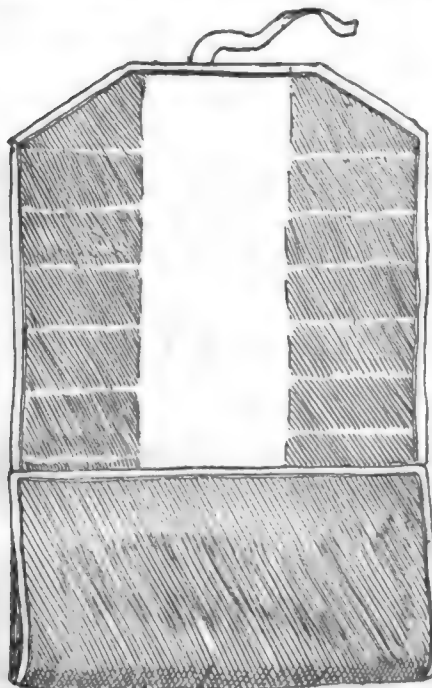
WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE sharp, frosty weather reminds us of the near approach of Christmas, and we are able to give one or two new ideas for those of you who are making inexpensive remembrances for your friends.

Unless one has a well-filled purse the presents must needs be inexpensive, otherwise it would take all of one's allowance for the twenty or twenty-five presents which are necessary to go the rounds of one's immediate family, relatives and a few close friends—and this is putting the number very low.

It is a good idea, when remembrances are to be given to people who do not live in the same house, to get hold of some new and useful articles, either for decoration, the toilet table or for wearing purposes, and to make several of the same thing, as material can be bought in quantities much more reasonably than when only enough for one of the articles is to be



KNIFE AND FORK CASE.

made—and give to those friends or relatives who live apart from each other.

For an aunt, or a married sister, or, in fact, for any housewife, we don't know of anything she will appreciate more than one of the knife and fork cases which we illustrate. It so often happens that one has more knives and forks than are needed for every-day use, and that some may just as well as not be gotten out of the way and be kept fresh and bright by putting them into a case of some kind, and if one is received from a considerate niece or younger sister it will be filling a long felt want.

The one we took this design from was made of blue denim for the outside and white cotton flannel for a lining. Both pieces were cut of the same size, being eighteen inches wide by twenty-four inches long. The two pieces should be laid together wrong side out and seamed up on two sides and one end and then turned right side out by means of the unsewed end. Then the sides are laid over toward the center to a depth of three and a half inches on each side; the open end should have the corners clipped off, and the whole should be bound with a white cotton braid or tape. The pockets are then to be stitched at such distances apart as will give twelve pockets for sticking the knives and forks into. The cotton flannel, of course, comes against the silver and so keeps it bright and free from scratches. It should fold three times, and on the outside end of the one we here illustrate, is embroidered in white linen floss a conventional design with a knife and fork incorporated. A piece of the tape, or a piece of ribbon should be sewed onto the end of the case, and also one at that point farther down on the outside of the case where the last fold comes, so that the case may be fastened in place after it is folded. The entire expense of such a case would not exceed twenty-five cents, if one bought enough of the denim, flannel, tape and linen floss for six.

The black leg which we show will puzzle our readers until they read the description and use of it. It is intended as a pin cushion to hang on a gentleman's chiffroniere—but is equally appropriate on a lady's dressing table. It is made of black china silk and is eight inches long. It is simply two pieces of the silk cut out, stitched together on the machine, turned and stuffed with bran, very hard. It is stuffed from the top, which is left open, and after it is packed as full as possible, the top is gathered and fastened securely. Then around this top is sewn a double ruffle of chiffon, and a bow of ribbon with one long loop for hanging purposes, is tacked on the last thing. The chiffon, or silk for the ruffle is, when doubled, about three or four inches deep, and quite full, and falls over the knee. The one we show has a yellow ruffle and yellow ribbon.

Another picture shows a pair of pants. You really cannot call them trousers. Pants is the name for them. They are made of denim, cut like a regular overall, with four buttons on the band and some suspenders made from white cotton tape attached thereto. They are supposed to be ornamental—they certainly are useful—not in the usual way, as they are only seven inches long, but in saving the wall paper from being ruined by careless people who think it is put upon the walls simply and solely for the purpose of being scratched with matches. For the benefit of these people two squares of sand paper are pasted onto the seat of the garment, and upon the sandpaper is an interesting text to be read carefully and to be remembered, when going up the stairs to bed, each night thereafter—and so save the wall paper and likewise their own trousers, for the legend says:

"Scratch your matches on these breeches. 'Twill save your Mother lots of stitches."

It is suggested to present such gifts to boy cousins and young brothers, to be hung under the gas jet in their room.



MATCH SCRATCHER.

It is suggested to present such gifts to boy cousins and young brothers, to be hung under the gas jet in their room.

"Scratch your matches on these breeches. 'Twill save your Mother lots of stitches."

HOW SOME OF OUR READERS CAN MAKE MONEY.

Last month I cleared, after paying all expenses, \$355.85; the month previous \$280 and have at same time attended to other duties. I believe any energetic person can do equally as well, as I have had very little experience. The Dish Washer is just lovely, and every family wants one, which makes selling very easy. I do no canvassing. People hear about the Dish Washer, and come or send for one. It is strange that a good cheap washer has never before been put on the market. The Iron City Dish Washer fills this bill. With it you can wash and dry the dishes for a family of ten in two minutes without wetting the hands. As soon as people see the Washer work they want one. You can make more money and make it quicker than with any other household article on the market. I feel convinced that any lady or gentleman can make from \$10 to \$14 per day around home. My sister and brother have started in the business and are doing splendid. You can get full particulars by addressing the Iron City Dish Washer Company, 110 Station A, Pittsburg, Pa. They will help you get started, then you can make money awfully fast.

MRS. W. H.

ANY LADY

Having 2 or 3 hours spare time a day can make \$5 weekly working for us at home. Nothing to sell. Write to-day for free sample. P. Manhattan Emb. Co. Bockman St., N. Y.

BOYS AND GIRLS

Watches, Cameras, Sporting Goods, Jewelry, etc., given away for selling 18 packages of Excelsior Bluing at 10c. We ask no money. Send your name and address and get outfit and premium list with instructions postpaid. When you sell the Bluing send us the money and select your premium. We Trust You. This is an honest offer. Write for outfit today. EXCELSIOR BLUING CO. Dept. 3 Chicago

Quilt Patterns

Every quilter should have our book of 400 designs, containing the prettiest, queerest, rarest, most grotesque patterns, from old log cabin to stars and puzzle designs. Revised edition; beautiful. Sent postpaid for 10c. silver or six 2c. stamps. LADIES' ART CO., 806 N. Broadway, B5, St. Louis, Mo.

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FREE! BE UP TO DATE THE LATEST FAD

Stamp your initial in gilt on your stationery, linens, books, etc. In order to introduce our indelible ink and gilt, we are going to give away 5,000 of these Rubber Stamp Initials. This is just a special introductory offer and will last but a limited time. Send 10c to pay postage and packing and send your initial you desire. Mollie Engraving Co., St. Louis, Mo.



NO ADVANCE IN PRICES

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A Good High Arm Machine at \$9.75.

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NO MONEY

required with your order. Cut this ad. out and send us your order and we will send you this 8-11 Silk Seal Plush Cape, 22 in. long, reaching 6 in. below waist, lined throughout with black Satin, edged all around with black Russian curly Thibet fur, fully worth \$10—our price..... **\$3.50**

Give neck and bust measure when ordering; will send C. O. D. Try it on and if you find it the biggest bargain you ever saw pay agent \$3.50 and express charges and the cape is yours. If you prefer will send cape prepaid on receipt of price and 40c express charges. **GUARANTEE** with every garment: if plush or lining wear out before two years a new Cape Free.

FREE—Our new catalogue No. 101 of Ladies' Jackets, Capes, Suits, Skirts, Waists and Fur. A Dictionary of Fashions, Illustrated a book worth having. A postal brings it FREE. Write immediately. **M. PHILIPSBORN** 101 State St. CHICAGO. Please mention COMFORT when you write.

Stamped Satins Free

All Bright Colors, each piece 9 square inches in size, for Quilts, Sofa Cushions, etc. One bundle of stamped Satins and 75 cents' worth Sheet Music free with our Family Journal six months, for 10 cents. N. H. Silk Works, Dept. Y, North Branch, N. H.

FEEL YOUR PULSE

Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased, and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats are only one symptom, and in many cases are not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:—

Symptoms of Heart Trouble.

Fluttering, Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in the Left Side, Arm or Under the Shoulder Blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep, Dreaming, Nightmare, Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Drowsy, Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs), Neuralgia Around the Heart. Persons having even one of these symptoms should not delay treatment a single day.

Medicine Free to All. If you have been treating your- self for stomach, lung, kidney or nervous disease, and have failed to find a cure, the chances are 9 in 10 that your trouble is in your heart. Hundreds of such cases are found every year. I want you to send me your name and address at once, so I can send to you for trial a box of my celebrated Heart Tablets absolutely free of charge, by mail, prepaid. Don't fail to write me if you have a single one of the above symptoms. I can cure you beyond any question, and will send the free tablets to prove it to you personally. Delays are dangerous. Inclose stamp for postage. Address DR. AUSTIN ALBRO, Box 962 Augusta, Maine.

A HALF MILLION

\$1.00 Charts Sent FREE With 184 Songs.

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COMFORT'S NEW CHART OF CHORDS for the PIANO.

A New and Quick Method of Learning to Play the Piano or Organ Without a Teacher. There have been many so-called easy methods and charts devised, but this is the latest and best. It is intended for those who have not the time to take lessons. A complete self-instructor, enabling any one to play the piano or organ at sight. This chart is the practical result of years of study by a noted American composer and musician. With this chart any one can become an expert pianist, playing accompaniment to the most difficult songs at sight, as well as dance music, marches, etc. These charts are valuable to the advanced musician as well as to the beginner, embracing nearly every major and minor chord used in music. It is the most comprehensive yet simplest chart ever published, and is endorsed by teachers and musicians everywhere. To introduce "COMFORT'S CHART" in every home, we will send free with each chart the "GIANT ALBUM OF SONGS," containing 184 songs with words and music, including the great New York hit, "Dear Old New Hampshire Hills, Ma Sugar Hube 'Coon song', If Mother Were Only Here, For the Flag I Die, Dear Mother, all new, as well as all the favorite old ones, such as Molly Bawn, Annie Laurie, I Cannot Sing The Old Song, The Olden Land, Battle Cry of Freedom, John Anderson, My Jo, Danube River, Lullaby Watch, Bonnie Dundee, Our Flag is There, Auld Lang Syne, etc., etc. **PRICE OF CHARTS ALONE \$1.00.** These charts were sold for \$1.00 each, but having contracted for half a million of them we got them at a lower rate and are going to give the Great Album of Songs with each set and have them sold for 25 cents, and to every one selling six sets of charts with the Album of Songs at 25c. per set \$1.20 in all, we will give one of these Solid Gold and Opal Rings, warranted to wear over three years. A written guarantee going with the rings from the manufacturers.

SPECIAL OFFER LIMITED TO COMFORT SUBSCRIBERS. This offer, calling as it does for the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars in sending out such a large quantity of valuable goods on sale, the item of postage and express being enormous, must be limited to "COMFORT" subscribers and we make you these special terms. Send us only 10 cents for a six months' special subscription to Comfort and we will send free, all charges paid, the set of Charts and Chords, Album of Songs, Subscription blanks, etc., etc., and when you sell the Six Sets send us \$1.40 balance and we forward your Premium free. If you do not want a Ring we give Ladies' or Gent's Watches, Bracelets, Necklaces, Tea Sets, Lamps, Shaving Sets, etc., as per Premium List, which we will send you.

NO RISK. If after getting the Charts and Album of Songs you are not satisfied, or can't sell them, you can return to us and we will refund the 10c. advanced for subscription. You will then have the privilege of trying the Chart and singing the songs say how free. Enclose 10 cents to-day and send at once to **COMFORT CHART COMPANY, Augusta, Maine.** Positively no Charts sent without 10 cent subscription.



Snap Shots at Famous Boston Writers.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



MARGARET DELAND.

W HILE perhaps no other American city contains so many literary workers as Boston, it cannot be said that any distinctly literary colony exists there. The homes of the men and women who are famous the world over for what they have written, are scattered all over the city and the suburbs. Some still cling to the houses in which a lifetime has been spent, regardless of the fact that a shifting population has left them in a hopelessly unfashionable neighborhood. Others have moved on with the tide into Beacon street and Commonwealth Avenue, while still others have left the city entirely for quieter if less convenient country homes.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich lives in a big old house on Mt. Vernon street, that most unique of all Boston's thoroughfares. Running directly over the top of Beacon Hill, parallel to Beacon street and next to it, thoroughly plebeian at both ends of its short length, there still remains a little space in the middle of Mt. Vernon street which may be reckoned among the most exclusive residence portions of Boston.

It is just there that Mr. Aldrich lives, his house one of a row set well back from the street, with that rare thing in the center of Boston, a big yard in front. The house inside, in its finish and its furnishings, reminds one of the exquisite literary art of the occupant. Quaint old tables and chairs, cabinets, bronzes, pictures, fit each in its place as perfectly and easily as does each word in the sentences which Mr. Aldrich writes.

Margaret Deland lives on the opposite side of Mt. Vernon street and a little below Mr. Aldrich. Her home is a bright modern house, filled with books—books everywhere. The part of the house which pleased me most was the enormous brick fireplace in the great sitting hall, a fireplace so big that a good sized family could sit in semi-circle before it.

Mrs. Deland, whose portrait is given in our initial, is a woman still young, although she has achieved so much in literature, handsome, and, what is not invariably the case with literary women, always becomingly gowned. At rare intervals she consents to read or speak before a public audience, and the occasions when she does so are always notable. She spoke from the pulpit of one of the great city churches in Boston, one Sunday evening not long ago, upon "The Modern Novel." Her voice is singularly well fitted for public speaking, being sweet, clear, and although never forced, easily strong enough to fill a large audience room.

Mrs. James T. Fields lives on Charles street, in a part of the city which has degenerated faster, perhaps, than any other. Noisy electric rattle in the narrow street. Stables and harness shops, bakeries and Chinese laundries, are near neighbors. Almost every other house on the street has "Rooms to Let" in the window. And yet no one who has been in the house, or knows anything of its history, wonders that Mrs. Fields prefers it to any other house in the world. Probably no other house in Boston has entertained so many distinguished people, and though since the death of Mr. Fields the number has been somewhat lessened the house still keeps up its reputation. Among those who have been entertained there lately were Dr. Watson (Ian MacLaren), and his wife, for whom Mrs. Fields spread that novelty for them, a genuine New England Thanksgiving dinner.

Once inside the Fields' house and noisy Charles street and the city are forgotten, for back of the house, and opening from the dining-room, a beautiful high-walled garden stretches down to where the Charles river, here almost a lake, opens up a vista to the west, where, at sunset, the spires of Cambridge are outlined against the glowing sky.

One of the chief treasures of the house is the famous crayon portrait of Hawthorne, made from life. This hangs on the wall of the dining-room and looks down upon a massive old black oak table and queer high-backed chairs.

Herbert D. Ward and Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward live in summer in a delightful house in Gloucester, set out on the rocks where the blue waters of Massachusetts bay almost wash the door sill. In winter their home is in a big, comfortable, modern house in a quiet part of Newton, some ten miles from Boston. Few literary families work under more favorable conditions, and few do as good work. Each has his and her own study, with only the hall between. The rooms are light and cheerful and each furnished in accordance with the tastes of its occupant. Mr. Ward has the reputation, and deserves it, of being one of the handsomest literary men Boston has ever known. Mrs. Ward has been ill much of the time of late and doing almost no work, a fact which has been a great disappointment to those of her friends who knew what her plans were. Mrs. Ward is seen very little in the social life of the city, but those who are privileged to see her in her home know her to be one of the most sweet and charming, as she is one of the most brilliant of women.

Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton's home is a comfortable roomy house on Rutland Square, where the foremost woman writer of verse in America to-day has gathered around her a remarkable collection of pictures and books which are tokens of love and remembrance from the many celebrated people whom she has known. Mrs. Moulton's collection of gift volumes with autograph dedications is particularly large and interesting. Mrs. Moulton



THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH.

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We will ship a CORNISH PIANO or CORNISH ORGAN anywhere upon the distinct understanding that if it is not satisfactory to purchaser after 12 months' use we will take it back.

Could anything be more fair, anything more liberal, anything more conclusive of our faith in these instruments?

The Unique Cornish Plan of Selling Pianos and Organs

has spread over the entire civilized world and has been the means of building up a business the vastness of which is the envy of every piano maker and dealer in existence.

Over a Quarter of a Million Satisfied Customers

Back of that warranty is a business worth over a million dollars and a business experience extending over fifty years as makers of high-grade instruments.

FREE Our Souvenir Catalogue for 1900 is one of the most comprehensive musical books in the trade. It is handsomely printed in colors. The frontispiece is a masterly reproduction in fac-simile of an interesting oil painting, designed and executed for us by an eminent artist, representing Saint Cecilia and the Angelic Choir. This beautiful catalogue is sent, charges postpaid, together with a novel reference book, entitled "The Heart of the People," together with our latest special offer, etc. The catalogue describes in detail all our pianos and organs. It tells about

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For Pianos imitate accurately nearly every known stringed instrument, such as Harp, Banjo, Guitar, Zither, Mandolin, etc., while the famous patent Combination M. H. H. Reed Actions make the CORNISH Organs unequalled in tone—the power of a full orchestra being most successfully reproduced.

The Cornish Patent Musical Attachment

A prompt response to this advertisement will secure a DISCOUNT of \$10 on the list prices as quoted in our 1900 Catalogue on any CORNISH ORGAN or \$20 on the list prices if you buy a CORNISH PIANO.

SEND FOR PARTICULARS OF THE CORNISH CO-OPERATIVE PLAN, showing how you can make money working for us, or a CORNISH PIANO or ORGAN FREE.

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REPRESENTS: Your bank, our bank, any bank. MAKERS OF HIGH GRADE AMERICAN PIANOS AND ORGANS.

always spends her summers abroad, but her Friday afternoons, through the winter, are among the most notable of the social functions. Mrs. Moulton is one of the literary women who knows how to dress well, a faculty which her yearly visits to Paris assist her to exercise. Gail Hamilton's girlhood home, the one to



LOUISE CHANDLER MOULTON.

which she returned whenever possible, and the one in which the last year of her life was spent, was a big old house in Hamilton, some twenty miles out of Boston.

It is a very generally received impression that this spirited writer's real name was Mary Abigail Dodge, and that she obtained her famous nom-de-plume by taking the last syllable of her middle name and the name of her native town. I have the authority of her surviving sister, Miss H. A. Dodge, however, for saying that this is entirely unfounded. Her sister's name, Miss Dodge says, was Mary Abby Dodge, and the name of Abigail which was so persistently ascribed to her was extremely distasteful.

Miss Dodge at home was the most charming hostess imaginable, her conversation sparkling with that wit which enlivened her writings, while her manner was kindness itself. The last year of her life was a quiet one, for she was nearly helpless from illness. The inaction, the feeling of being "out of things" for one who had been for so long a time "in the midst," must have been hard to bear, but I never heard her make but one allusion to it, and that, it seemed to me, was a strikingly pathetic one. She had been speaking of some work on which she had been engaged which was especially interesting to her, and said:

"And now I can only sit in a nook of sunshine and play with two little black and white kittens." A moment later, though, the happier side of her nature asserted itself, and she added: "After all, though, I never before in all my life had all the time I wanted to play with kittens."

Hezekiah Butterworth has lived for over twenty years on Worcester street. He was for many years one of the editors of the Youth's Companion, but gave that up a few years ago to devote himself to miscellaneous writing. He has several series of boys' books under way, and his stories of New England life, in the writing of which he has no superior, are to be found in all the leading publications.

Mr. Butterworth is devoting much time at present to a study of educational questions, particularly as pertaining to kindergarten work. He is a very careful student, and thinks nothing of going to Europe or South America to consult an au-



HEZEKIAH BUTTERWORTH.

thority. Recently he made a unique and extremely interesting journey across the Andes on mule back, going from Argentine to Chili. Some of the results of this trip have been given to the public through the Review of Reviews, and a more lengthy account has appeared in book form. Although Mr. Butterworth spends most of his time in Boston he owns the historic old farm and farmhouse of his family, down on the Rhode Island coast, and also an orange grove and cottage in Florida.

Julia Ward Howe's Boston home is a house in the most stylish part of Beacon street. Mrs. Howe also has a house at Newport, where she spends the summers. The Boston house is full of interesting objects, many of them of great historic value. I think that of all, the one which has interested most is the helmet which Byron wore during that Grecian war in which he lost his life. Dr. Ward, a Boston man of wealth and cultivation, became greatly interested in the struggle and went, as Byron did, to personally take part in it. During the time he was there he came to know Byron well, and after the latter's death his helmet was given to his American fellow soldier. The helmet is of bronze, beautifully wrought, and though tall and elaborate is not heavy enough to be burdensome. I enjoyed the privilege of trying it on, and when I did so shut my eyes and imagined for a moment that I could hear around me the clash of arms as Turk met Greek.

Mrs. Howe is so sweet and beautiful it is a benediction simply to be in her presence. I remember once I had occasion to go to ask her opinion for publication upon a great National question which had suddenly startled the country. I found her just returned home from a meeting of some sort, tired, I imagine, and not having had time to read what the papers had published about the matter. On this account she asked to be excused, until I happened to say how much her comment had been wished on this occasion because of her having written the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

The mention of that famous lyric to her was like wine to a worn out man. Her weariness vanished. Her eyes shone, as she said: "Come back to me at nine o'clock. I will have had the papers read to me by that time and be ready to discuss the question understandingly." And she did.

An Indiana man has a paying business in rabbit breeding, having secured a kind of rabbit edible both in summer and winter.

It treats with you whether you continue the nerve-killing tobacco habit. NO-TO-BAC removes the desire for tobacco, with out nervous distress, expels nicotine, purifies the blood, restores lost manhood, makes you strong in health, nerve and pocket. NO-TO-BAC from book. your own druggist, who will vouch for us. Take it with a will, patiently, persistently. One box, \$1, usually cures. 3 boxes, \$2.50, guaranteed to cure, or we refund money. Starline Remedy Co., Chicago, Montreal, New York.

HOW to Make \$10 a day. Lady or Gent, boy or girl. Particulars 10c. silver. BOX 256, Middletown, Pa.

A REAL ORIENTAL RUG

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JUST A FEW NEW IDEAS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HERE is always a stream of new and interesting ideas flowing through the Patent Office at Washington, and some rather notable ones have gone on record during the last half dozen weeks. Among them one finds a contrivance for making artificial ostrich plumes, which has been originated by E. W. Moch, of New York City. He takes feathers of various smaller and cheaper birds, and puts them together in such an ingenious manner that nobody would suspect the artifice, the result being so fine that no lady need be ashamed to wear the composite ornament on her hat.

Nowadays the making of artificial birds is quite a business. For mourning hats small black parrots are much used, and, inasmuch as there are no such creatures in nature, they have to be manufactured out of defunct love birds, with the aid of dye. For half-mourning milliners black and white are desirable, and for this purpose again art comes to the rescue, turning out a fowl that is a curious mixture, with the gray head of a sandpiper, black wings and tail, and white body. Other birds are made to match costumes, and even humming-birds are often counterfeited for the same purpose by skillful hands.

James Lyons, of Manchester, Mass., is the inventor of an egg-tester which ought to be a great saver of labor. Most people are acquainted with the ordinary manner of testing eggs, by holding each one for a moment between the eye and a candle, those which are perfectly translucent being declared fresh, while any opacity is a sign of staleness. The machine referred to performs the operation in a wholesale way, and at the same time very quickly, by the help of an endless belt which carries the eggs over a sheet of glass beneath which is a bright light. This light shines through the eggs as they pass over, and the bad ones can readily be picked out.

Interesting to the housewife is a corn-cob fire-kindler, patented by Robert Skiles, Wiotia, Iowa. The pith being removed, the cob is filled with a mixture of paraffin and turpentine, the open ends being sealed with plaster. Finally, to prevent evaporation, the corn-cob is coated with heated resin, and it is guaranteed to start a roaring blaze off-hand.

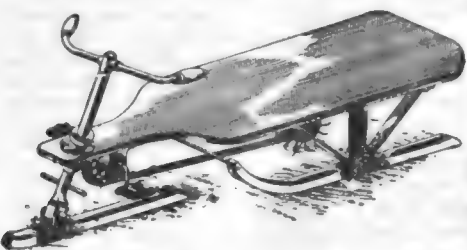
Two new kinds of monuments have been patented within the last month—one of them by Jeff D. Jarrett, of Ketchikan, Tenn. It is a sort of artificial stone, with a filling of sand, an envelope of cement, and an outer coat of plaster-of-paris and mullage. The advantage of this kind of monument is that it is cheap, so that surviving members of a family can afford to put one up for the least lamented relative. The other mortuary novelty is designed by W. A. Hawthorne, of Chittenden, Cal. (See initial.) It is of iron, with an upright piece supporting a horizontal tube which contains the ashes of the late lamented, whose portrait is set in each end of the cylinder. Thus anybody who visits the cemetery has an opportunity not only to read the inscription, but also to ascertain what the deceased looked like.

One of the most recent novelties in artificial stone is the manufacture of marble from chalk. The chalk, which is very porous, is placed in a bath of mineral oxide, which percolates through it and gives it color. It is the same process that nature employs and to which the various colorations of natural marble are due. The slab of chalk is then placed in a bath of liquid silicate, which permeates it in all its parts and cements its particles together. The result is a stone having the hardness and "ring" of real marble, and which is capable of receiving an exquisite polish.

A. R. Miranda, of Boston, has invented an antiseptic razor cabinet, in which a man may keep his razors with a certainty that no objectionable germs will get on them. A part of the apparatus is a species of atomizer, with tube and bulb, by the help of which the scientific shaver gives his instruments an occasional spray-bath to disinfect them.

An automobile horse, which can be either ridden or driven, is the invention of a Frenchman named Constance Rousset, who has patented it in this country; it has a movable head by turning which the operator steers the mechanical beast. Its inside works, of course, are machinery, somewhat complicated, and it runs on wheels.

For the sick-room is a novel apparatus by which the patient may be lifted out of his bed



A NEW-FANGLED SLED.

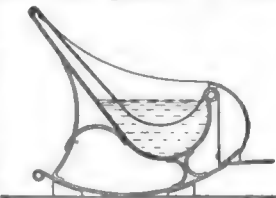
and lowered again thereto without being disturbed, pulleys and a sort of net being employed. William L. Walton, of St. Louis, has devised a collapsible chicken-coop, which folds

up like an opera hat when not in use. A rocking-chair with a fan attachment, the latter run by a weight, is suitable for old folks, while Johnny may want one of the new-fangled sleds patented by William A. Hartman, of Mayburg, Penn., a picture of which is shown herewith.

In summer, however, Johnny may prefer to play with a curious toy invented by John T. Davey, of Ashland, Wis. It is a bow and arrow, but the latter, when the bow is sprung, transforms itself in the air into a parachute, which gracefully and slowly descends to the ground. The parachute in its flight upward, becomes detached from the shaft of the arrow, which is fastened to the bow and so does not get away very far.

An ear-drum exerciser is one of the newest inventions, and is supposed to be good for deafness. More interesting is a nut-cracking machine, patented by Edward T. Fenwick, of Washington, D. C. Nowadays the nuts that come to market—especially pecans and English walnuts—are not cracked by hand, because that would be too costly and troublesome a method. Machinery does the work vastly better, submitting each nut to exactly the right amount of pressure, and separating the kernels from the shell beautifully. Afterwards, likewise by an automatic device, the broken kernels are separated from the whole ones.

William Menges of Montgomery, Penn., has contrived a portable fire escape which is recommended for the use of travellers who, whether they like it or not, are obliged to stay for brief periods at hotels. Anybody who possesses this kind of a fire escape need not be anxious, inasmuch as he has only to open his valise and throw it out of the window in the event of an alarm, retaining in his hand the end of the fold-



CHAIR AND BATH.

ing ladder which the traveling bag ordinarily contains. The bag serves as an anchor for the ladder at the ground end, while the extremity held by the man at the window is easily attached to the sill, and he is at liberty to descend at his leisure.

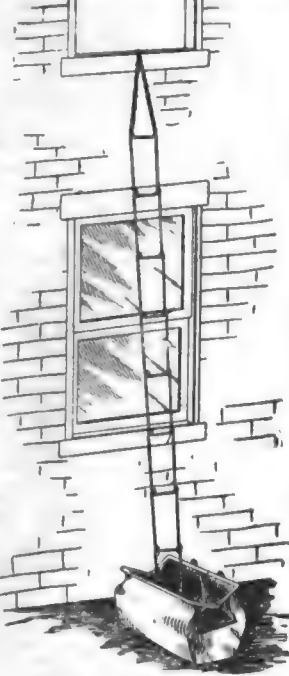
Housewives may be interested to learn of a newly-patented process for preserving bread—that is, for keeping bread fresh for a remarkable length of time. Having been baked at a high temperature, the loaves are taken out of the oven, cooled to 90 degrees Fahrenheit, and each of them wrapped as quickly as possible in an air-proof and water-proof paper.

Charles E. Fitzgerald has originated a method of preserving certain meat foods in such a way that they may be kept for a century perhaps without losing any of their freshness or edible quality. He puts them into flasks or other airtight metal vessels, and subjects them in this condition to a high heat, so as to kill all the bacteria which would otherwise cause decomposition. It has been ascertained by experience that, though bacteria may be killed in this way, their spores are not destroyed; but the inventor keeps the spores from developing by injecting aerated gravy into the receptacles at a pressure of 100 pounds to the square inch. Thus there can be no decay, the vessels being sealed hermetically.

A German named Richard Straube has just patented in this country a combination rocking-chair and bath. It may be used as a hip-bath, or, if desired, it may be tilted at a different angle and employed like any ordinary bath. When it is not wanted for purposes of ablation, the water is simply emptied out of it, and a canvas cover affording a comfortable seat is stretched over it.

There have been a good many inventions lately for preserving the freshness of eggs. At the present time eggs are packed by millions in lime, salt, etc., or are put in cold storage for winter use; but such eggs are very apt to be found unsatisfactory when they come upon the market. Scientific tests have proved that the best of all ways to keep eggs fresh is to pack them in water-glass. To each 10 quarts of boiled water add one quart of water-glass. Pack the eggs in a jar, pour the solution over them, cover them well, keep them in a cool, dark place, and do not wash them before packing. Water-glass is silicate of potash and is extremely cheap.

This is an age when all sorts of things are made in sections. Everything imaginable from a rifle to a house is turned out with convertible parts, so that if any portion is missing or broken, a duplicate can be obtained from the factory, guaranteed to fit perfectly. Americans have recently sent a great steel bridge to Gen. Kitchener in the Soudan, in sections, to be put together for spanning a large river. Steamboats are shipped to Africa in sections, carried around the cataraacts of the Congo and other mighty rivers, and set afloat upon the waters of the interior of the Dark Continent. The newest thing in this line, however, is what is called the pioneer hut. It is made in a number of pieces, which can be put together by anybody in almost no time, and as easily dismantled and repacked for transport. When packed, it is contained in two boxes of moderate size. The hut is of steel, with a pine floor. It is said to be doing a great deal to further the interests of civilization in South Africa, inasmuch as by its help a whole town may be made to spring up literally in a single night. Furniture in the shape of folding beds, chairs and tables, with stoves and chimney supplied to order, complete a readily-transportable household equipment.



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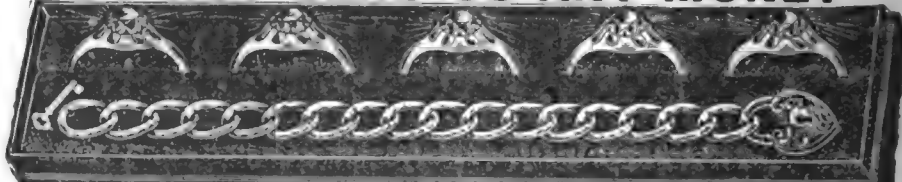
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Max Bals, of Vienna, has just patented in the United States a machine for making matches out of pasteboard. The electric typewriter has come at last, and it may revolutionize the art of letter-writing. What the inventors seem to be after most urgently just at present, however, is some kind of practical apparatus that will get power from the tides or the sea-waves, and there is no doubt that they will solve the problem some day and harness this energy to machinery.

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Christmas Feasting the World Over.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WHEREVER Christmas is known and observed the wide world through, feasting seems to make an important part of the festivities. It is an old saying, "the way to a man's heart is through his stomach," but at the Christmas season things seem to be reversed and men's hearts are burning within them to furnish pleasure to the gastronomic organs.

In Sweden, for instance, that snow-covered country, the people look forward to the coming of Christmas with more joy than in almost any other country. For days and weeks the preparations are going on for this greatest event of the year. The brewing must not be forgotten, and the supply of ale must be largely increased, for, besides what is needed for home consumption, there must be enough on hand to admit of offering a mug of it to the many Christmas callers who come laden with gifts and good wishes. White bread must, for this once, take the place of the brown cakes which are the common food of the people. Even the stock receive an extra supply of provender and sheaves of oats and other grain are fastened up in spots where they will be accessible to the wild birds. On Christmas Eve dinner is taken in the kitchen, partly to lighten the evening's work, but chiefly to enable the family to observe the ancient custom of "dipping in the pot." For this, ham, meat, tongue, etc., have been boiled together, and while the pot still hangs over the fire each member of the family takes a slice of bread and tries to dip it completely into the pot and remove it without having it break into pieces. When all have shown their skill the meat is eaten, after which comes rice and apple sauce. Later in the evening the famous Yule dish of codfish and potatoes is brought forth, followed by more rice, cooked as none but Swedes can cook it; but before a grain of this rice can be eaten each person present must recite a rhyme of his or her own composition. These are intended to show off some virtue or foible of some member of the family, and have probably cost their author weeks of work and thought.

In France the Christmas dinner includes the poulet cooked and garnished as only the French can do such things, and liver puddings rich with truffles and seasoning. Spain begins the dinner with a soup of sweet almonds and cream, followed by fish roasted before the fire and basted with lemon, chopped garlic and oil. Russia serves her national soup, which is a mixture of beef bouillon, boiled cabbage, sour cream and the fermented juice of beet roots. This may be had at any time during the entire day. At the dinner itself the principal dish is a pig roasted whole, and served with Casche, which is a dressing made of boiled buckwheat cooked with the liver and the heart of the pig. A relish eaten with this is the Pasca, a cheese creamed with butter, sugar and raisins, and allowed to stand twenty-four hours. And never is missing from this Christmas table the dish of bright-colored, hard-boiled eggs, which are eaten with salt.

The German dinner consists of roast goose, stuffed with chestnuts, pork boiled with sauerkraut, sausages, beef with sour sauce, black puddings, smoked goose, baked apples, and beer in unlimited amount. In Switzerland again goose is the principal dish. This is supplemented by Swiss confectionery, cakes, fruit and nut puddings, Geneva fritters, a paste made of fruits, spices, marmalade, eggs and kirsch. The Italian dinner, which is partaken of at any time in the evening between eight and midnight, boasts of eels as its principal dish. These are served one to each guest, each rolled in a laurel leaf. Portugal follows the lead of Russia in the choice of Christmas dinner, and feasts on sucking pig, while Alsace imitates Germany in its festival dishes.

Bohemia alone, among all the Christain countries, makes Christmas a day of rigorous fasting. Even children are expected to deny themselves all food from sunrise to sunset. This day is also a veritable collection day for workmen of every class, and the master of the house needs a pocketful of money to satisfy all the demands made upon him by the multitudinous artisans, musicians, pot-menders, bell-ringers, chimney-sweeps, cobblers, etc., who throng the house from early dawn to wish him a "Merry Christmas" and receive from him a remembrance.

In the mean time his wife, daughters and maid servants are busy all day long in the kitchen, whence issue odors most tantalizing to the fasting family. Towards sunset the last collector departs, the children are washed and arrayed in their Sunday clothes, the father and hired men quit work and don their best clothing, and the mother, daughters and servants also find time, amid their many duties, to deck themselves in all their finery, for all must be in readiness when the Angelus rings.

The ravishing whiffs from the kitchen are constantly increasing, and when at last the Angelus peals out its welcome summons all feasting is at an end, and the whole family, including servants and hired men, file into the dining-room, and range themselves around the table. All remain standing while the grandfather, if the family is so fortunate as to possess one, asks "a blessing upon the food. Then all are seated and the simple but abundant meal begins. The menu is nearly the same throughout Bohemia, and consists of fish soup, gruel boiled with dried mushrooms, butter cakes smeared with prune marmalade, flapjacks with poppyseed or honey, fried or baked carp, hot; cold carp in black sauce, cakes, coffee, nuts and apples.

The supper is interrupted by a succession of roulades and blasts. It is the shepherd blowing his long horn, which is a familiar sound to all the village, and the shepherd himself is a most useful and important personage among these simple folk. He minds not only their sheep but also the swine, and cattle. He understands animal ailments, and is often a friend in need to the farmers when their domestic animals are suffering. So, although his call as

collector comes at a most inconvenient hour of the festive day, he is none the less welcome, and is brought to the table and pressed in the kindest manner to join the meal. His stay is short, however, as he has yet several places to visit, and the day is nearly ended; so he is allowed, somewhat unwillingly, to depart, and his mellow horn goes winding over the hills, growing fainter and fainter as he moves, while the family gather around the fire for an hour of social chat and story-telling. At eleven the older ones make preparations for a journey to the parish church, no matter how great the distance or what the weather, that they may end the day in devout adoration of Him whose birth into the world they have just been celebrating.

The Land of the Dark and the Sunlight.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE very name of Norway suggests everything that is picturesque and romantic, high mountains rising directly out of the sea leaving the deep valleys to be filled with water from the ocean, forming fjords, the long darkness of the winter and the daylight meeting dawn in the summer, the log huts of the peasants together with their gay dress and delightful manner, make the country one which will awaken interest in every lover of the beautiful and artistic.

Norway occupies the western half of the Scandinavian Peninsula and in most things is different from its neighbor, Sweden. In passing from the latter, a country of plateaux and wide plains dotted by hundreds of lakes, to Norway, one is impressed by the immediate change of scenery, for once over the boundary the level land disappears, all is rugged and mountainous.

All along the Atlantic coast the fjords cut deep into the land and wind like rivers for hundreds of miles from the ocean. In ancient geological times Norway was worn down to a level plain which was afterwards raised thousands of feet and the valleys worn out by the glaciers and streams, so that there are no giant mountains towering above their neighbors; but all of Norway is high. The fjords form the great wealth of Norway for it is here that the towns are built, here that the fisheries are carried on, here that vessels find anchorage and trade may prosper. About one eighth of the entire population are accommodated on the islands and the rugged sides of the fjords. For grandeur and beauty the Sogne Fiord excels all others. Extending more than one hundred miles inland, its wall of solid rock rises abruptly to heights of from four to five thousand feet casting a shadow upon the water and lending a sense of security to the traveller who seems entirely shut off from the world, and awed by the grandeur and silence of the scene. But the silence is broken again and again by the splash of the waterfalls from the heights above. Released from the glaciers and the everlasting snows of the mountain tops the water rushes to the edge of the cliffs, there to tumble and dash with a sparkle and spirit which can only be felt, to the fjords below. There is in these streams an animation which is most inspiring, like a spirit telling of great things to be accomplished, and with that sound ever in his ears one does not wonder that the Norwegian has always shown a spirit of unrest and a love of adventure. But beside an inspi-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17.)

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GEARHART'S IMPROVED KNITTER WITH RIBBING ATTACHMENT. Knits everything, from homespun or factory yarn, equal to hand knitting. Cheap, practical, simple. Illustrated instruction teaches you all about it. Only machine made with RIBBING ATTACHMENT. Ahead of all competitors. Satisfaction guaranteed. Money for agents. Plain and ribbed samples free. Address, J. E. GEARHART, CLEARFIELD, PA.

MRS. DeMORT, Box 92, Toledo, O., FREE sends valuable toilet recipes to ladies



A GOLD WATCH celebrated "CALUMET PERFECTO" CIGARS we give every person buying a box of cigars for \$3.50 a beautiful hand engraved stem wind and set "GOLD" WATCH, fitted with a SPECIAL AMERICAN, richly damascened nickel movement, GUARANTEED FOR 30 YEARS. A handsome watch chain and a guarantee with every watch. Send this to us, and we will send you the cigar and watch by express for examination. If you are satisfied, pay \$3.50 and express charges. CALUMET MFG. & IMPORTING CO., DEPT. 55, CHICAGO.

Clothing Salesmen Wanted.

\$150.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES MADE BY ALL OUR ACTIVE MEN. WE PAY MANY FAR MORE.



WE WANT MEN IN EVERY COUNTY

In the United States. If your reference is satisfactory we will start you at once. No experience necessary. No capital required. We furnish a full line of samples, stationery, etc. A tailor-for-the-trade complete outfit ready for business. NO COMMISSION PLAN. You require your own profits to suit yourself. No house-to-house canvass. This is not one of the many catchy advertisements for agents, but one of the very few advertisements offering a rare opportunity to secure strictly high-grade employment at BIG WAGES.

We are the **LARGEST TAILORS** in America. We make over 300,000 suits annually. We occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago. We refer you to the Corn Exchange National Bank in Chicago, any Express or Railroad Co. in Chicago, any resident at Chicago. Before engaging with us, write to any friend in Chicago and ask them to come and see us, then write you if it is a rare opportunity to secure steady, high-class, big-paying employment. **BETTER STILL**—come to Chicago yourself and see us before engaging and satisfy yourself regarding every word we say. You can get steady work and big pay. Work in your own country 300 days in the year and you can't make less than \$5 every day above all expenses. **WE WANT TO ENGAGE YOU**—take orders for our Made-to-Order-and-Measure Custom Tailoring (Men's Suits, Pants and Overcoats). We put you in the way to take orders from almost every man in your county; a business better than a store with a \$50,000 stock. You will have no competition.

WE ARE THE LARGEST TAILORS IN AMERICA Of Fine Custom-Made Garments. We buy our cloth direct from the largest European and American Mills. We control the product of several Woollen Mills. We operate the most extensive and economic custom tailoring plant in existence, thus reducing the price of Suits and Overcoats made to order to \$5.00 and upwards; Pants from \$1.50 to \$3.00. We show a large line of suits at from \$5.00 to \$8.00. Prices so low that nearly everyone in your county will be glad to have their suits **MADE TO ORDER.**

WE FURNISH YOU

a large, handsome leather-bound book, containing large cloth samples of our entire line of Suits, Pants, Overcoats, etc., a book which COSTS US SEVERAL DOLLARS; also Fine Colored Fashion Plates, Instruction book, Tape Measure, Business Cards, Stationery, Advertising Matter, and your name and address on a rubber stamp with pad complete. We also furnish you a Salesman's Set Confidential Price List. The prices are left blank under each description so you can fill in your own selling prices, arranging your profit as you wish. As soon as you receive your sample book and general outfit and have read our book of instructions carefully, which teaches you how to take orders, and make your own suits, you are ready for business and can begin taking orders from every one. At your low prices, business men, farmers and in fact every one will order their suits made. You can take several orders every day at \$1.00 to \$5.00 profit on every order.

YOU REQUIRE NO MONEY. Just take the orders and send them to us, and we will make the garment within 5 days and send direct to your customers by express C. O. D., subject to examination and approval, at your selling price, and collect your full selling price, and every week we will send you a check for your profit. You need collect no money and every week promptly send you in one round check for your full profit for the week. **NEARLY ALL OUR GOOD MEN GET A CHECK FROM US AT LEAST \$40.00 every week in the year.**

THE OUTFIT IS FREE. We make no charge for the book and complete outfit, but as each outfit costs US SEVERAL DOLLARS, to protect ourselves against many who would impose on us and send for the outfit with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, as a GUARANTEE OF GOOD FAITH ON THE PART OF EVERY APPLICANT, we require you to fill out the blank lines below, giving the names of two parties as references, and further agreeing to pay, merely as a temporary deposit, ONE DOLLAR and express charges for the outfit, when received, if found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages. The \$1.00 you agree to pay when outfit is received does not begin to pay the cost to us of the outfit, but merely as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business (merely as a temporary deposit), One Dollar and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to \$25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, cut out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent you at once. **AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.**

GENTLEMEN—Please send me by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, your Sample Book and Complete Salesman's Outfit, as described above. I agree to examine it at the express office and if found exactly as represented and I feel I can make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business (merely as a temporary deposit), One Dollar and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to \$25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

Sign your name on above line.
Name of Postoffice, County and State on above line.
Your age _____
Married or single _____
Address your letters plainly to
AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.
On above two lines give as reference, names of two men over 21 years of age who have known you one year or longer.
On above line give name of your nearest express office.

LEARN A PROFESSION in 10 days that will net you \$25 a day the rest of your life. Ladies or gentlemen. Address with stamp. PROF. S. A. WELTMER, Nevada, Mo.

PILES ELECTROBOL gives instant relief. Final cure in a few days, never returns; no purge, no salve, no knife. Remedy mailed Free. Address J. H. REEVES, Box 655, New York, N. Y.

BE YOUR OWN PRINTER. A COMPLETE PRINTING OFFICE FREE. This outfit saves its price many times over by reduced printers' bills. Contains a full of changeable rubber type, ink pad, twosters and holder. You can print cards, mark clothing boxes and papers, and make it useful in many ways. We will send you this Outfit Free of Cost, also one 10 cent package best perfume, \$6 New Songs and our Coin and Stamp Value Guide, which tells you what old coins and used stamps are worth and who buys them. We will also send you a \$1.00 Due Bill, which entitles you to \$1.00 worth of goods absolutely Free from our store. This Big Offer is made to introduce our goods to new customers. We want you to trade with us and recommend us to your friends. Know you will do it when you get this lot of goods. Write today and we will send the outfit lot to you. Enclose 15c. stamps for postage and packing. **WATSON SUPPLY CO., Dept. D, 871 DEARBORN ST., CHICAGO, ILL.**



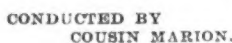
DON'T DROP DEAD. If your heart is healthy there is no danger, but the moment the heart makes known its presence in the bosom it is unhealthy and out of tune. **SUDDEN DEATH** is in close touch with you if sharp or dull pains play around your left side, upper left arm, or under the left shoulder blade. **DEATH MAY CONTINUE YOUR SLEEP** forever if you are subject to violent starts in sleep, or if dizzy spells or fainting spells trouble you, or if you feel depressed in throat or chest, especially after eating. **DOES YOUR BREATH COME SHORT** after going up stairs, or after hurrying, or otherwise exciting yourself? Yes! Then look out for Death for you are in danger. **SURE SIGNS OF A DISEASED HEART** that cannot be mistaken are palpitation, or fluttering, skipping a beat, dark specks in the vision, swelled ankles, desire to sleep after eating, unnaturally cold hands and feet.

PUT US TO THE TEST. **TREATMENT FREE OF CHARGE.** We have thus far over 5,000 Cures to our credit. We wish to increase the number to 20,000. Until that number is reached we will give the first treatment to those troubled with heart disease or any of the symptoms of that deadly disease free of charge. In its early stages heart disease is curable, but neglect a curable disease and it will rapidly develop into an incurability. There is but one cure to an incurable disease—death. Don't court death, but write at once for our absolute cure of valvular and organic heart disease, an infallible preventive of all the complications which lead up to a diseased heart. We send one box free.

THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 1263, Augusta, Maine.

HA! HA! HA! FUN ALIVE! The Comical Mirror.

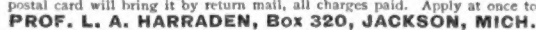
A handsome convex mirror in a case suitable for carrying in the pocket. For many years the funniest and most laughable attraction in nearly every museum has been the large convex mirrors in which a person appears drawn out as long and narrow as a bean pole, or flattened down like a gridiron with a face as broad as a cellar door. This mirror produces the same effect as the large and expensive mirrors in the museums. By holding the mirror in an upright position stout people look thin and in a horizontal position thin people look stout; anyone can recognize themselves at once, but their features are so distorted and their general appearance so changed that they cannot fail to have a good laugh over it. If you have a friend (lady or gentleman) who think they are a little better looking than anyone else, let them take a peep into the mirror and it will take them down a peg or two—either the "short and fat" view or the "long and slim" view are stunners and will cure the blues every time. Send for one it will afford you lots of fun. **GRAND OFFER TO YOU.** Send us 12 cents and we will send this splendid literary monthly for the Home, three whole months on a trial subscription and one Comical Mirror, postpaid; for 27 cents we will send you the paper 3 months and three mirrors all paid; or, for only 76 cents we will send the paper a whole year and one dozen mirrors by express. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



A Friend of Girls, Denver, Col.—Writes to object to the "advise" I give these cousins of mine.

COUSIN MARION.

GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.



Reader, do you desire to become a Hypnotist? Do you want to know how to utilize the most powerful and mysterious force of nature? Do you value control over others? Do you value the means of securing friendship, love and personal influence? Do you value the power to conquer pain and banish sickness, to reform a misguided friend, to gain business success, to win wealth, position and happiness? If you do, you must learn to Hypnotize. Why not? No other accomplishment is so easily acquired. It can be mastered in a few hours time, without leaving your home. It costs nothing to find out all about it. The most complete and up-to-date work on the subject of the century has just issued in book form a large and exhaustive **TREATISE, or INSTRUCTOR in Hypnotism**, covering the whole ground of his Science, and he will send it while the edition lasts, absolutely **FREE TO ALL** who apply. The book is profusely illustrated, containing hundreds of beautiful and artistic engravings, and shows as never was done before the principles, features, wonders and uses of this mysterious Science, all in a popular and pleasing style. It tells you just what Hypnotism is, and what you may accomplish with it. It shows you how you may sway the minds of others, perform astounding feats and produce amusement by the hour. New and instantaneous methods. Success absolutely guaranteed. Remember, this grand work costs you nothing who reads it. It places you in touch with the Real it anyhow. It is absolutely **FREE**. A return mail, all charges paid. Apply at once to **EDMUN, Box 320, JACKSON, MICH.**

green or pink, in light or dark shades. Here is an honest advertisement. No beating around the bush. We make our offer of a silk dress free in plain English & we guarantee to send it, with a solid gold laid carbon diamond breast pin which we give absolutely free to every person answering this advertisement. We will send you the positive or negative answer to your question. If you agree to do this, order sarveto-day & we will send it by mail, when sold you send us the \$1.50. No extra tax you this handsome present exactly as we agree same day money is received. We make this extraordinary inducement to convince you we have the best Corn Cure on earth. There is no chance of losing your money. We will send you the offer we make with the order we send you absolutely free full 10 to 12 yds. any color you desire. Don't pay out your good money for a handsome dress while you can get one free. Wonderful Remedies. Address at once MFR'S SUPPLY DEPT., K. O. No. 61-5th Ave., New York City.

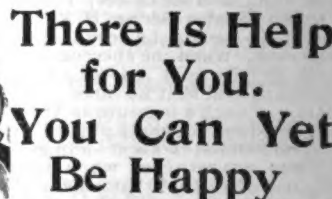
Fortunes in STOCKS.
Shares \$1.00 a month.
Safe as a Bank. Send 4c
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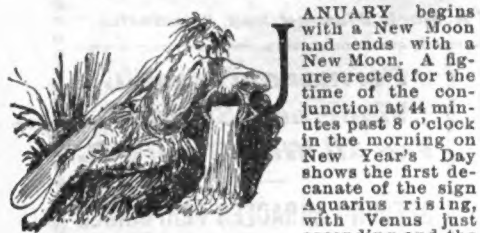
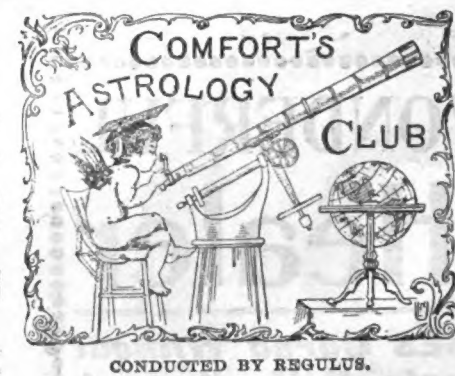
But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness, feeling of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you HAWK AND SPIT and expectorate greenish colored matter? IS your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.



I have an appliance. The only way to introduce it is to let you try it FREE. You will tell others if it helps you. It is perfectly harmless. Send as your name we are looking for real sufferers and knowing it will do you good you can cure yourself without trouble or expense. This article is perfectly safe and reliable, can be worn day and night, at all the time or part of the time and in any place or spot on the body that feels sick or shows pain—it is most marvelous acting, and is the greatest God-send you ever heard of. After you use it and you feel its power, you will say 825 would not have prevented me from sending for it. It acts just as well on man as on a woman.

THE ONLY CONDITIONS.

We send one all charges paid. 1's Medical and we are obliged to put on Revenue stamps. Therefore as we furnish them entire free we simply ask you to send us 10 CENTS (or mailing, etc. We trust to your honor- others about the cure and know man) be sold thereby. We do not ask you to pay any more money unless you want others to sell at a profit after you try it. Address, G. O. COMPANY, Box 354, Augusta, Maine.



Scorpio culminating. The ruler of the scheme is located in the tenth house in the sign Sagittarius in which is also found the great benefic Jupiter. The Lunation falls in the 12th house within 4 degrees of Mars; Saturn is in the 11th house near the cusp of which Mercury stands in the Moon's Node. The indications of the figure are in the main good and indicate a high degree of prosperity and success for our Nation and our people in the mass. There are some discordant elements, it is true, prominent among which are the treacherous actions of some secret enemies of the administration who not only do not work for or promote the public welfare but seek the injury of the Nation by treacherous methods. The great benefic Jupiter near the South meridian and the lesser benefic Venus just rising, thus benevolently occupying the two most powerful angles of the figure, indicates that for the month the nation continues its steady progress and is prosperous and successful despite the mischievous efforts for harm. Congress will work harmoniously for the public good notwithstanding Saturn in the 11th shows some treacherous action of malcontents.

A disagreeable feature of the figure is the presence of the inflammatory Mars near the conjoined luminaries, pointing to some violence to prisoners or the outbreak of some epidemic or eruptive disease among soldiers in southeastern regions. Disorderly elements in prison or places of detention in those regions may succeed in escaping from the authorities or in working violent harm to keepers or guards. The month will probably give more than usual contention and fires are likely to be very destructive. Troubles of minor character near the Mexican border are threatened. There will be increased mortality from eruptive diseases, or such as affect the digestive organs and the kidneys and head; and persons subject to apopleptic troubles should exercise unusual care throughout January. The same conditions emphasize the injunction for all to be temperate in habit and to abstain from the use of intoxicating drinks, especially those with apopleptic tendencies.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR JANUARY, 1900.

JANUARY 1—Monday. Form no hasty conclusions in business during this day; litigation and contention are likely to interfere seriously with the happy outcome of matters of magnitude or importance. Be patient; do not rash in thought or act and scrutinize carefully all business enterprises now presenting themselves; seek no promotion in public positions, be patient with those associates and do not offend those employer. Conditions are very threatening and caution more than ordinary prudence in all business ventures; combustion is quickened and fires, explosions and violent disasters are very probable in these passing days and much increased mortality from kidney and digestive troubles, apoplexy and from hemorrhages and violence will be noticed. All persons born about the 4th of April, July, October and January of past years, will need to exercise more than ordinary care in starve and should be very prudent in diet, avoid heat, inflammation and excitement and look out for eruptive troubles and fires; those of the gentle sex so born should counsel their male relations to be specially guarded as to health and pecuniary transactions and they themselves should not permit serious difficulties or quarrels to interfere with their best welfare in life. Be patient, to some extent, and like to be much given to social communion and entertainment; there is danger under the heightened inflammatory influences of the day, this year, that extraordinary harm and physical disorders will result to very many who give way to any intemperate impulses. Stimulants will be peculiarly mischievous in arousing strife, contention and violence. Restraint, advice, prudence, patience, and great moderation in all the affairs of life.

2—Tuesday. This is a superior day and specially fortunate for every honorable pursuit; buy goods for trade, speculate in legitimate methods of business, travel and apply for favor or money accommodations; waste no moments in idleness.

3—Wednesday. Continue thine efforts of yesterday with the utmost vigor; giving preference, if any, to business pertaining to the elegant and decorative in life; consult thy dressmaker, tailor, jeweler and artist and do all things that require the exercise of taste; painted articles of an artistic or decorative character are likely to prove profitable if they offer themselves at this time; the afternoon is less to be depended upon, except for literary work and mental labor.

4—Thursday. Be stirring early and employ every moment of the day until three in the afternoon. Use the forenoon for the pursuit of all general business, but particularly for dealings with printers, publishers, stationers and real estate traders, also for the purchase and sale of such commodities as coal, iron, petroleum, wood, lumber, lead, wool and grain; also for engagements for the improvement of lands; but as the afternoon advances put on the breaks, avoiding all haste and pull the purse strings securely to prevent needless extravagance and loss.

5—Friday. Give a wide berth to all public officers with whom thou shouldst not seek to conduct important business; large corporations will not favor thee in the forenoon; the afternoon and evening, however, are superior for dealings with dentists, chemists, surgeons, builders, masons and all mechanics and workers in brass, iron and glass.

6—Saturday. The week ends with an especially unfavorable day until the evening and more than ordinary circumspection should be exercised in all thine undertakings of much magnitude; indeed a little procrastination at this time will be likely to prove rather more salutary than otherwise. Do not have any important transaction with the pen, for the time is very evil for all kinds of contracts especially pertaining to houses and lands or mining properties. Those of the intellectual and literary classes born about the 19th of March, 21st of June, 22nd of September, or 20th of December of past years, are now in the midst of adverse conditions and have unusual troubles in their affairs or are suffering from their written contracts or their correspondence, or from slanderous tongues and fraudulent representations; the evening of this day is by far the best and should be given preference as much as possible for all the important engagements.

7—Sunday. A very favorable Sabbath day, especially for church matters; the evening is particularly propitious for social conversations and the contemplation of the beautiful in literature and art.

8—Monday. Be in no haste to begin the day's labors; be slow to anger; keep out of controversy and be prudent under all kinds of excitement in the morning hours. As the day advances, however, bend all thine energies to business; push thy bargains in houses, lands, mines and all agricultural and mining products; make contracts and urge literary matters and correspondence to the utmost; printers, publishers, press-writers, mathematicians, scientists and all employed with the pen should use the latter part of the day for their most vigorous efforts.

9—Tuesday. An excellent day for the fine arts and for all kinds of business concerned with articles of adorn-

ment and dress; the late hours are less to be depended upon.

10—Wednesday. The very early hours forbid advantage from any venture pertaining to the elegant in life, when no dress goods should be selected or any artistic wares purchased; but after nine in the forenoon conditions favor the greatest activity in all business pursuits; especially such as are concerned with hardware, machinery, tools, chemicals, or with the mechanical and manufacturing interests; deal in cattle, metals, drugs, fire-arms and glass-ware, and with persons who are engaged in such callings.

11—Thursday. An evil day in which, particularly, matters of much importance are best deferred; quarrels, bad accidents and strife are easy of occurrence under these influences and more than usual prudence and moderation is urged; money losses come unless great care is had; beware of having any surgical operation performed on this day, if it can possibly be avoided.

12—Friday. Let all engaged in the elegant occupations and polite arts improve the whole of this day; artists and musicians are particularly favored in the afternoon when dexterity in execution will be marked; the evening gives pleasure from the drama or musical entertainment.

13—Saturday. The conditions do not promise success in new and important enterprises now begun, and caution care in all things; do not let disappointment depress thee nor be stubborn or rebellious to thine own injury.

14—Sunday. A day of intellectual acuteness though tendencies to sarcasm and bitterness of speech are incited; strange whims and notions become pronounced and the temper will need healthful check.

15—Monday. Give no offence to thy superior or employer nor seek advantage from persons in authority; the day is peculiarly unpromising and forbids profit or advantage from anything now begun. Persons born about the 14th of April 17th of July, 18th of October, or 15th of January, of past years, are likely to be now in the midst of contention or strife and should be careful not to precipitate trouble of considerable magnitude by their own rashness or pugnacity; children so born should have the best of care as these days are passing, especially if there is any prevalence of eruptive diseases, for measles, scarlet-fever, diphtheria, etc., are likely to be more than usually dangerous. Married ladies so born are cautioned against permitting domestic inharmonies to make serious ruptures in the marital relations. The male relatives of such ladies are the cause of mental troubles and anxieties; let all be temperate in habit and in diet, considerate of the rights of others, and cautious not to become involved in disputes; be watchful against fires and explosions and see that no harm comes from horses, dogs, or machinery.

16—Tuesday. The very early hours are not promising, being rather promotive of contention; be not over-sensitive to reproach or rash in word or act, but as the day is all entered upon let every moment be improved for forwarding all important matters, especially such as concern the fine arts and all money transactions; purchase artistic wares, wearing apparel, dry and fancy goods and all those things which furnish pleasure and gratification to mankind.

17—Wednesday. Have no real estate transaction in the morning when matters are hindered much; the day is better as it advances and all things should be urged vigorously.

18—Thursday. Do not wed on this day nor expect success in the elegant pursuits or in dealings in fancy or ornamental goods. The day is dangerous to the purse, in that it impels one to make purchases that are wholly unnecessary or beyond the means, or that will not give permanent satisfaction; beware of speculation; the forenoon encourages transactions with real estate men and in such commodities as coal, wood, lumber, grain, and other agricultural products.

19—Friday. The morning promises but little if any favor from dealings with officers of large corporations and contributes disquiet in the domestic circle; the afternoon and evening, however, conduce to success in all literary undertakings; push correspondence and give the mind vigorously towards forwarding all thine affairs.

20—Saturday. The forenoon is indifferent in promises but as the noon is past let all energies be put forth; deal with surgeons, druggists, chemists, cutlers, machinists and all workers with fire and metals; the midnight hours are evil and mental depression frequently attended with disagreeable dreams will be noted.

21—Sunday. The best Sabbath day in the month; the efforts of the clergy will be especially happy and effective and ministers will dwell with earnestness and zeal on the contemplation of religious subjects; church matters are prosperous.

22—Monday. Begin this day early but give preference to transactions concerning the elegant things in life; the pursuits of the fine arts is encouraged until three in the afternoon; after which conditions conspire to embarrass such matters and literary engagements do not result satisfactorily; postpone correspondence, especially such as concern money and the affairs of the wealthy; see that no mistakes are made in figures or accounts in the afternoon hours.

23—Tuesday. The forenoon should be used for hiring or purchasing houses or lands and dealing with miners, tinners, plumbers, brick and stone masons and all engaged in the laborious or dirty vocations; put on the cautious cap in the afternoon when quarrels and disputes are easily provoked; seek no favor from thine employer nor have any surgical operation performed during the day; the evening promises pleasure from dramatic or musical entertainment or the social gathering.

24—Wednesday. Apply to persons in authority for favor or advantage during the middle hours of this day; be careful here that thine inclination to disburse money is prompted by thine actual needs and not a mere whim or fancy, as the passing days give tendency towards extravagance or wastefulness of this world's goods to obtain mere gratifications.

25—Thursday. Begin this day with the Sun and improve every moment; the merchant, tradesman, commercial traveler, and all engaged in literary pursuits or having employment concerning books or newspapers are particularly favored; authors will find their efforts on this day bringing forth good fruit; buy goods for trade, travel, and urge all honorable undertakings; execute contracts and do important correspondence.

26—Friday. Seize the early forenoon hours for pressing all engagements, especially if such concern thine money matters or depend for success upon the favor of thy superior in business; do not look for success in the fine arts nor expect any advantage from thy dealings with officers of state or of great corporations.

27—Saturday. Keep out of disputes on this day; do not institute legal proceedings nor expect any favor from thine employer.

28—Sunday. The morning hours are all mischievous and prompt rest and quiet and tardy rising, but as the forenoon opens conditions change for the better and pulpit utterances are likely to be noted for readiness of eloquent utterances; the evening is peculiarly propitious for enjoyment of all things beautiful and artistic and for quickening the tender sentiments.

29—Monday. Look out on this day that no loss comes from any speculative deal and do not let haste or decision or impatience of suggestion or control lead thee to action detrimental to thy best interests; keep a check upon all impulses.

30—Tuesday. Urge all matters of an honorable nature during the first two-thirds of this day, due regard being had for a too hasty inclination in the afternoon, when all strife is to be guarded against especially if born about the 29th of January, April, July, or October of past years. All these latter persons are easily drawn into controversy at this time unless they are carefully on their guard. Such persons who are subject to disturbances in the circulation of the blood should avoid excitement in these days and do nothing to aggravate any heart disorder they may have seen symptoms of in that line.

31—Wednesday. The month ends with a fairly favorable day, conducive to a good degree of success in all honorable undertakings.

To Cure Piles and Female Diseases.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure any of the various diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhoea, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc., or the piles from any cause or in either sex. I will gladly mail a box of this wonderful medicine free to every sufferer. Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

IT CURES DRINKING

I have found a positive cure for drunkenness. Can be given secretly. Will gladly tell you what it is. MRS. MAY HAWKINS, L. U. 131, Grand Rapids, Mich.

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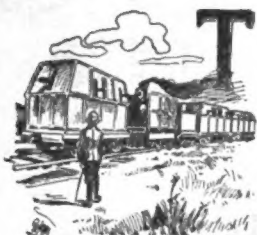
Hundreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs which could be done by you just as well as by the person you hire. "Yes," you will say, "I could do this work if I only had the tools." You have to hire the plumber or cobbler and pay him for his time while you stand around and look on, watching him do the work which you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing which was ever seen, and we will sell the entire outfit for less than half the money for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of forty-four first-class tools, as shown in the above cut, viz: 1 iron last for men's work; 1 iron last for boy's work; 1 iron last for women's work; 1 iron last for children's work; 1 iron stand for last; 1 shoehammer; 1 shoeknife; 1 pegawl handle; 1 pegawl; 1 wrench for pegawl handle; 1 sewingawl handle; 1 sewingawl; 1 stabbingawl handle; 1 stabbingawl; 1 bottle leather cement; 1 bottle rubber cement; 1 bunch bristles; 1 ball shoe thread; 1 ball shoe wax; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 4-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails 5-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 6-8 in.; 1 pkg. heel nails; 4 prs. heel plates, assorted sizes; 6 harness needles; 1 harness and saw clamp; 1 box slotted rivets, assorted sizes; 1 rivet set for same; 1 harness and belt punch; 1 soldering iron, ready for use; 1 handle for same; 1 bar solder; 1 bar resin; 1 bottle soldering fluid; 1 copy directions for halfooling, etc.; 1 copy directions for soldering all securely packed, together with directions for use, in a neat case. These tools bought at a hardware store separately would cost between \$7.00 and \$9.00. You can repair boots and shoes, tap and heel them, mend your harness or make a new one, mend all kinds of tinware, repair pumps, plumbing and similar work, and do all kinds of leather work about carriages, etc., as well as repair and mend rubber boots, rubbers, overshoes, and all kinds of rubber made articles. The clamp is used for mending harnesses and filling saws. Has a coil spring and is made of iron. You can easily save five times the cost of this outfit in six months and make a heap of money doing little repairs for your neighbors and others. "A stitch in time saves nine," and if you have these tools in your house you can make repairs and save a great deal of money which you would pay if you let a break go or hired a man to do your repairing work for you. Every one of these tools are full sized, practical, neat and cheap. It is the only complete outfit in the market and thousands have been sold in past years for \$3.00 when the outfit contained but about half as many smaller articles to people living in the country and small towns as well as in the city. This repairing outfit, weighing 20 lbs. will be sent by freight complete as above described for only \$1.62 which includes a 6 months trial subscription to this paper.

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COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE war in the Transvaal has become so important that it now occupies the largest part of the columns of the daily newspapers, which are full of telegraphic accounts of the fighting between the troops of Great Britain and the armies of the Dutch republic. Although there has been very much printed about these questions, they have not occupied the attention of American readers very much until recently, and a great many people even now have but vague ideas of the situation or what the trouble is about.

The South African republic, commonly known as the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, are two Dutch republics in the interior of the south part of Africa, neither of them having any sea coast or water communication excepting the rivers which flow from the interior into the South Indian Ocean, and cross foreign territory after leaving the Transvaal before entering the ocean.

The Orange Free State is a little country of about the same size territory as occupied by our state of Kentucky, nestling along the western part of the southern boundary of the South African republic. The Transvaal is about three times as large in territory, being approximately the same size as New Mexico. It is cut off from the ocean on its upper eastern border by the Portuguese colony of East Africa, which is as big as Texas and Louisiana combined, and below that by Tonga Land, a little country about equal to New Hampshire in size, then by Zulu Land, which is a British protectorate about as large as Maryland.

The Orange Free State is cut off from the ocean on the south by Basuto Land and the great extent of country known as Cape of Good Hope, the southern part of which is the region called Cape Colony, and is entirely British. The whole of the Cape of Good Hope is a little larger than Texas; and Basuto Land, which is in the middle of the south-east border of the Orange Free State, is about as large as Vermont.

Along the north-west border of the Orange Free State lies Griqua Land west, which is part of the extensive country generally known as Bechuanaland. This is all a British colony and borders the whole of the South African republic on the west and north, and is generally known and is on the maps as British South Africa.

The Dutch settlements in South Africa have existed nearly 250 years, the first being at Cape of Good Hope where the Hollanders located in 1652. After the revocation of the Edict of Nantes by Louis XIV., there was an exodus of the Huguenots from France, and a large body of them sailed to the Cape of Good Hope and founded a colony there. They did not get on well with the Dutch, and in 1709 the use of the French language was forbidden, which was followed in 1724 by a decree closing French missions and churches and forbidding their religious exercises. This caused an exodus of Huguenots to a large extent, those remaining being absorbed and assimilated by the Dutch. This will account for the many French names which our readers will notice in the accounts of this war among the Boer commanders. In this connection it is well to notice that General Joubert, who is in command of the Boers, is of Huguenot extraction, and that DeBeer and Outrops, upon whose farms the diamonds were originally found, were also from the Huguenot families.

The influx of foreigners, especially of British, caused great uneasiness in Cape Colony the beginning of this century. The Dutch settlers there were entirely of the agricultural class and disliked any changes. They lived in a simple, primitive way and preserved all the characteristics of the Hollanders of two centuries ago. They were strongly opposed to innovations of any kind and disliked changes of their methods. This brought them into constant friction with the new settlers at the Cape, and in 1833 the relations had become so strained that there was a general exodus of the Boers from Cape Colony across the Vaal River, hence the name Transvaal first came into use. The exodus was accomplished by trekking, each farmer taking his household goods and family in large tilt wagons, and driving them with long strings of oxen, their cattle and stock following. They went into this wild new country to establish a government of their own kind. Their contact with the fierce wild men of South Africa, with all kinds of game including lions and elephants, and their agricultural mode of life kept them in the saddle all day, so that they became the most expert horsemen and marksmen in the world. For a few years there was a constant war with the Zulus, but the Trekkers or Boers finally drove them out of the country. About ten years from this time, the British occupied Natal, and induced the Boers remaining there to emigrate, which they did in two great streams, one headed toward the Orange Free State and the other toward the Transvaal. Quarrels between their leaders prevented the establishment of any settled form of government, and Great Britain taking advantage of this dispersed the Boer government in Natal. The annexation in 1848 of Boer land between the Vaal and Orange Rivers by Great Britain caused a rebellion of the Dutch, but they were quickly driven across the Vaal River. There was a desultory war for four or five years, when a convention was signed at the request of Pretorius, the Boer leader, which established the Boer independence in the Transvaal, and the following year his son was proclaimed the first president of the Dutch-African republic and a partial occupation of the Orange Free State. In the year 1867 both diamonds and gold were discovered in the interior, and immediately after Pretorius issued a proclamation enlarg-

ing the boundaries of the republic so as to take in Delagoa Bay on the north. This was the beginning of a series of disputes between the republic and Portugal and Great Britain. It was not until 1875 that Delagoa Bay and the coast was given to Portugal under French arbitration. In the mean time there were constant insurrections and armed resistances until 1877, when Great Britain annexed the country.

At this point "Oom Paul" Kruger (Uncle Paul Kruger) and Gen. Joubert first appear on the scene as ambassadors sent to England to protest. The Boers were unanimously against annexation, but were in no condition to resist on account of financial depression; while the



COMMANDANT JOUBERT.

excuse of Great Britain at that time was that it was necessary to hold the Transvaal on account of the decision relative to Delagoa Bay, and the Transvaal must be held for the protection of the other British colonies.

For the following three years matters grew worse and worse, and in 1880 the Boer war for independence broke out. The British lost every important engagement there, and their misfortunes culminated at Majuba Mountain where they were disastrously defeated by the superior bravery and generalship of the Boers. A treaty of peace was signed in 1881, by which the Republic was placed under the suzerainty of Queen Victoria, and two years after Oom Paul was elected president under the new conditions.

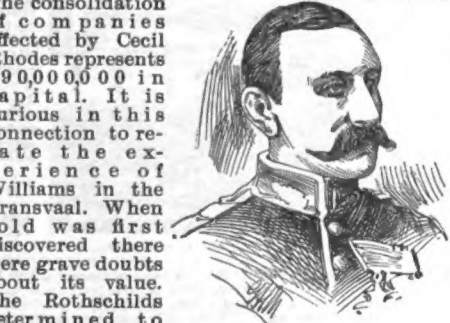
Things went quietly until 1886, when great discoveries of gold were made in the Transvaal, more particularly in the middle province. English, Americans, and other foreigners flocked there in tens of thousands and engaged in mining everywhere. This enormous influx of people soon placed the relative proportion of about three to one. The new comers, known as Uitlanders, were the possessors of the great wealth of the country as well as a great majority, and rapidly developed it in modern lines, at the same time being unable to vote although heavily taxed and having no share in the government.

A great deal has been written about the ethical side of the case, but it is against all ideas of modern justice that the intelligent and wealthy of a population should be taxed and have no share in the government; and this situation was made doubly strong from the fact that the Boers have resisted progress and advancement in every way, desiring only their primitive life and looking on all changes as innovations that were breaking up their homes. The situation became more strained every day, and finally a raid, which will be remembered, was planned by Dr. Jamieson with some 300 followers with an intention of making an uprising of the Uitlanders in the Transvaal. He was captured at Krugersdorp and afterwards taken to London and tried; he was convicted but only nominally sentenced. Since then there has been a very great deal of diplomatic correspondence between the two countries, Great Britain demanding for the Uitlanders franchise and certain privileges, which were opposed by the Dutch who look on the foreigners as having no real standing in the country. It finally culminated in a declaration of war by President Kruger October 11th of this year.

It is not the intention of COMFORT to give a detailed account of the present war which is daily recounted by the newspaper press; but in this article the purpose is to point out a few of the salient features and so explain them that our readers may read the current news with better intelligence and so more accurately understand the statements that are made.

From what has been written above it can be seen that in one sense the whole war is one for gold; and yet the course of Great Britain is by no means simply a contest for loot, but she is fighting a great battle for civil rights while the Boers are struggling for Dutch supremacy. But, still, there never would have been any war if gold had not been discovered in the Witwatersrand about fifteen years ago.

The Transvaal then was nothing but a rolling land of meadow and mountain, good only for farming and ranching. The Dutch settlers had won it, and as it seemed scarcely worth fighting for, the English let them keep it. It was so little in communication that it took a journey of 40 days by ox cart to reach its boundaries from Cape Town. In 1884 a man named Arnold told a farmer named Geldenhuys that there was gold on his farm. The Dutchman did not believe it, but repeated the story and finally sold the farm to two brothers named Struben, who put up a mill and began to work the grayish earth that has since proven the richest gold ore the earth has ever shown. The Boer Government declared nine farms public gold fields.



GEN. W. PENN SYMONS.

Then the rush began. The Boers failed to act quickly and the claims were largely taken up by foreigners. The value of these farms at the time was less than \$50,000 while now it is estimated their value is not less than \$1,500,000,000. Nearly the entire diggings are in English hands. Everywhere are found rich deposits and the dividends have been enormous in their aggregate.

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FRANCIS TRUTH, 6 S. BOWDOIN SQUARE, BOSTON, MASS.

and visited the beautiful grazing lands where gold was reported. It was all different from American gold lands. He entered a few shafts of the "reefs" of that marvelous deposit, unlike any other in the world, and examined the queer, black, powdery soil and was thoroughly disgusted.

In the whole history of the world gold had never been found in such conditions, and he reported the whole story as a fraud and fake; even going so far as to say the whole business was not worth the trouble of alighting from one's horse for examination. So turning his back on this individual plain that now turns out \$40,000,000 in gold annually he went to Kimberley and made his strike in another direction.

Our initial cut at the head of this article shows a new engine of war which appeared for the first time in this conflict, and about which frequent allusions have appeared in papers—the armored train. Gen. Kitchener first used them in a crude form on his expedition up the Nile, while we made use of them in the Cuban campaign. These improved cars are lined or cased in steel or iron, being about the build and size of a long coal car. From four points protrude the muzzles of light rapid-fire cannon, and on every side are perforated holes through which to fire rifles. There is also a row close to the front for low volleys. The engine is protected with plates and sandbags and the train has proven a very effective fighting arm, especially for quick relief on railroad lines.

Among the earlier losses Great Britain met with was that of Gen. William Penn Symons, the British commander at Glencoe, shot in the stomach at Dundee. He was a brave man who had served Great Britain in many parts of the world with signal success. His death is particularly notable as being that of the first general officer Britain has had killed or mortally wounded in action for many years.

While some people hope that the war will soon close, there seems to be little prospect of it. The Boers are strong, sturdy fighters, persevering and dogged. They are familiar with firearms and are in their own country, which presents every known obstacle to a quick campaign. The British have unlimited supplies and men and the expedition under the general command of Sir Redvers Buller will have nearly 100,000 armed men under his orders. They will undoubtedly outnumber the Boers two to one, but the latter is fighting defensively and is at advantage. The English must depend on three lines of railroads and have to move long distances, so that an early end of the struggle either by conquest or desire for peace seems improbable. The fighting so far has been about equal in favorable results. Both

sides are acting on well-considered plans which show rare combinations of science and military genius. It hardly seems possible that a successful resistance can long be maintained by a small republic against the wealth and strength of England; but there is no doubt that the Dutch will be able to hold their enemies at bay for a long period, no matter what may be the final outcome.

As was above stated, it is not the intention of this article to give a history of the war itself, but the earlier contests have been rather favorable to the Boers who on both sides of the Transvaal have steadily pushed the British back. The campaign has at times showed great disasters to both sides and dogged perseverance in the troops of both armies. It appears the British War Office was not prepared for so aggressive a campaign on the part of the Boers. People who have an exaggerated idea of the horrors of the Spanish War and campaign in Cuba, can realize how little those battles meant as compared with the terrible warfare now going on in South Africa when it is told that the losses to the British army in the first twenty days of the war aggregated more than the entire losses of the American army and navy combined during the entire Spanish War, while the casualties of the Boers are supposed to have been equal if not larger; and yet, bloody as these battles are, they do not compare in proportion killed and wounded to many of the battles of the American Civil War, which have never been equalled in fierceness and disaster by any battle in history.



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